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LD1207130888 [Editorial Report]

Terrorist Attack in Greece

The terrorist attack on the Greek cruise ship "City of Poros" was reported by IRNA, which noted that 11 people were killed and over 70 wounded when 3 armed men attacked passengers and crew with automatic weapons and hand grenades.

"No clear incentive" for the attack has yet been suggested by observers in Athens, IRNA stressed. The agency noted that the attack followed the death of two Arabs in a car bomb explosion in Palio Faliro, the Athens port area from which the "City of Poros" departs on its daily excursions. Athens radio said the car had been hired by a Lebanese man who arrived in Greece 8 July.

Nicosia radio confirmed that the attack was carried out by gunmen of unknown nationality who escaped in a speedboat. At least 34 of the wounded passengers are French nationals, Athens radio disclosed.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq's IV Corps, in conjunction with Presidential Guard forces, was victorious in liberating all Iraq's "national soil" in the Zubaydah area east of Maysan after launching another offensive 12 July, according to a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Iranian troops retreated from Halabjah to new "defensive positions," IRNA reported. The Armed Forces Command Headquarters said the retreat was made to maintain "more secure" defensive approaches.

The IRGC and fighters of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq killed or wounded "hundreds" of Iraqi troops in marshland on the southern front, IRNA announced, citing an IRGC General Command report.

Iraqi ground forces shot down an Iranian F-5 fighter 11 July as it entered airspace over the III Corps border area east of Basra, a military spokesman told INA.

A "senior" Iranian Air Force commander said all Iranian planes returned safely to their bases and denied the report as "pure fabrication," IRNA reported. In another report, IRNA said Iranian warplanes heavily bombed positions in Zurbatiyah and Qal'at Dizah operational regions on 12 July.

Israel

West Bank—Two youths were killed and 12 other Arabs were wounded during clashes with IDF soldiers in Nabulus and in the nearby village of 'Anabta, Jerusalem radio reported. Curfews were imposed on these areas after the riots.

In another development, security forces arrested eight members of the "popular committee" involved in organizing opposition to tax collection in Bayt Sahur, a town near Bethlehem, the radio noted. In remarks to Jewish settlers' leaders cited by the radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted that the United States "supports establishing order in the territories" and he dismissed the view of a senior IDF commander that the uprising will last for years. Shamir also said that settlement activities left unfinished during the last 4 years will be completed after the elections.

Foreign Policy—Shamir commented on the Saudi-British arms deal in an interview with Jerusalem Radio, stressing that he sees no way to block the sale, and that Israel must take "all necessary means" to defend itself.

In another development concerning Arab air power, DAVAR reported that the Soviet Union is planning to supply Syria with Sukhoi SU-24 fighters this year. The same type of aircraft will also be delivered to Libya and other Arab states, the paper added.

On relations with the USSR, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres disclosed that Israel has now received visas for its consular delegation, which will leave for Moscow "within the next few days," according to IDF radio.

Lebanon

Monitored Israeli media were not observed to mention a Lebanese radio report that an Israeli aircraft was downed over Lebanon 11 July. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, the plane was shot down near Sidon when Israeli jets staged a mock raid over the city and nearby refugee camps. Other monitored Lebanese radios did not confirm the downing of an Israeli plane.

On the inter-Palestinian conflict, the Voice of Lebanon reported that rival Palestinian groups have clashed in Al-Rashidiyah Camp, south of Tyre.

In Syria, President Hafiz al-Asad discussed the Lebanese situation with Lebanese "scholar" Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Damascus radio noted.

Kuwait-U.S. Arms Sale

Newspapers commented on the U.S. Senate's vote to block the sale of Maverick missiles to Kuwait, saying the Senate put Israeli interests "ahead of" U.S. interests, KUNA noted.

An AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM editorial said Kuwait has the "means and options" to purchase "the quantities and quality" of arms it is seeking. THE KUWAIT TIMES called the recent U.S. decision to block an arms sale to Saudi Arabia "another blunder in Mideast policy."

It added that the attitude of U.S. "ruling elements" toward Middle East Arabs "can only be described as adolescent caprice." The paper praised the United Kingdom for its arms deal with Saudi Arabia and said there was "reason to regret" that the British "abandoned the Middle East to U.S. stewardship."

Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd held talks with Pentagon officials in Washington, KUNA reported. The Kuwaiti ambassador stressed the need for a "complete package" of arms that includes both F-18 fighter planes and "accompanying defense equipment," KUNA added.

Saudi Arabia

Customs officers discovered a cache of "light arms" a group of pilgrims attempted to smuggle into the country, KUNA reported. The arms, hidden in ice chests, were made of a solid plastic material similar to ice that is not easily discovered by the naked eye, the report stated, citing the newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM. Saudi authorities have contacted GCC states to strengthen security measures at official border points, the report added.

Libya-Tunisia

Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche met with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi during his visit to Libya, according to Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio. Baccouche told JANA his talks in Tripoli covered Maghreb unity and the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Afghanistan

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, commenting on recent foreign media broadcasts, said these broadcasts "contradict" Afghanistan's position on forming a coalition government, Kabul radio reported.

The Afghan Government has unambiguously stated its position and is ready to negotiate without preconditions with opposition forces, the spokesman reiterated.

The Afghan resistance interim government has rejected a proposal by a UN mediator to place an impartial government in Kabul and implement a 6-month cease-fire as of 1 September, AFP noted.

Resistance leader Mubarak Shah told the newspaper THE MUSLIM that peace cannot be restored without the consent of the seven rebel groups, the AFP report stated.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Economic Council Meets in Amman

Agrees on New Reforms

JN0607215588 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] The Arab Economic and Social Council today agreed to proposal to reconstruct Arab League organizations and improve their efficiency. At the end of a 2-day meeting in Amman, Arab ministers of finance and economy, or their representatives, took steps to conserve the spending of some Arab League organizations. Other agencies were scrapped, merged, or downgraded in a move to enhance their role in promoting joint Arab action.

The Council decided to open a unified account to finance specialized Arab organizations. They assigned an eight-man ministerial committee to plan the governing of the finances. In other measures, the Council decided to standardize salaries of all Arab League agencies and to pay employees in the currency of the countries where they work.

Arab Economic Market Envisaged

JN0607220088 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Arab ministers of economy, trade, and finance opened the 49th ordinary session of the Council of Arab Economic Unity—CAEU—in Amman today. The 2-day meeting will debate a development plan for trade exchanges among member countries.

Kuwait's minister of finance took over as chairman of this session from PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya. The new chairman reviewed the conditions of Arab economic institutions and urged action to facilitate and encourage trade exchanges by member countries.

Outgoing CAEU Secretary General Dr Hani al-Khasawinah also addressed the session. He voiced hope that the organization's efforts will culminate in signing a treaty of an Arab economic market.

Dr Khasawinah proposed that the CAEU would be excluded from the merging or scrapping of Arab League organizations. He further proposed that the CAEU continue as an independent institution reflecting the aspired goals for a united Arab economy. He commended his Jordanian successor as a resourceful man of vast experience.

Towards the end of the session, Mr Hasan Ibrahim of Jordan was unanimously elected as the CAEU new secretary general. The Council decided to form a four-man ministerial committee to study the prospects of giving a boost to the functions of the CAEU.

Participants in the Council meetings sent his majesty the king a telegram thanking his majesty for the support which the institutions of common Arab action receive from the Jordanian Government.

Palestinian Affairs

Sa'id Musa Muraghah Comments on Camps Fighting

JN1107093088 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 9 Jul 88 pp 44, 45

[Text] In Damascus, AL-MUSTAQBAL met with Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] in his office, 24 hours after the fall of Shatila camp, to present to him all questions on who is responsible for the fighting and on the possibility of a battle for Burj al-Barajinah.

In the beginning, Abu Musa told us that what he calls 'Arafat's group started the battle, beginning in Sidon, and then on 1 May when "'Arafat arranged an attack against us in Shatila camp, under the pretext that there was a quarrel between two cubs [young fedayeen]. 'Arafat's group managed to take four of our offices." Abu Musa also says: "After the camps' battles with Amal ended, 'Arafat could not find anybody to fight. He began to look for a new enemy to start a new battle, hence he began this fighting against us."

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Do you think that you won and occupied Shatila?

Abu Musa: Heaven forbid. How can we occupy Shatila? Is it Acre? We have defended ourselves and regained our positions. 'Arafat's group, who number not more than 40, have left Shatila camp.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: But they were 147 people!

Abu Musa: No, they were only 40 people.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Abu Musa, you are accused of shelling and destroying a Palerstinian camp.

Abu Musa: I have heard this. I have also heard that I am accused of shelling the camp from the mountain. But, we have challenged everybody to prove that we are shelling the camp, especially from the mountain. As for the shelling which was exchanged around the camp, 'Arafat has Mortar 82 and I have Mortar 82 and there was shelling.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: We have heard that it is Mortar 160 and this is a destructive weapon.

Abu Musa: No. I do not have Mortar 160 because this is a destructive weapon and has to be positioned in areas at least 700 meters away from the camp. We have challenged them to prove that we have cannons firing from the mountain. In the mountain there were three positions shelling us and these positions were in the service of 'Arafat.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: For whom are these positions?

Abu Musa: I do not want to enter into accusations and counter-accusations.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: But some Palestinian organizations accuse you of shelling the camp. They do this through public statements.

Abu Musa: True, they have accused and slandered me. But I have presented documents proving that the PFLP and DFLP gave all these positions to 'Arafat and that they gave him facilities in Sidon, the mountain, and on the outskirts of Shimlan.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: We have seen what has been described as a document with you regarding a contact between 'Arafat and the DFLP, but it is not very clear.

Abu Musa: It is not clear because it was written in tiny letters. We have rewritten it to prove that 'Arafat was coordinating with these two organizations. But, when I met with them yesterday, I told them: May God forgive you. What is important now is that you cooperate with us to stop the fighting. Because I want to avoid the battles. I have avoided a battle in Sidon and in Kafr Falus.

AL-mUSTAQBAL: Because you did not have a force there for such a battle?

Abu Musa: Not for this reason. I can fight with 10 men and anyone who wants to fight can fight with any number of men. But the situation in Sidon was different. There were many interferences. There were Palestinian and Lebanese organizations. This is different from the camp, which is entirely Palestinian.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Is the battle of Burj al- Barajinah forthcoming and what are its possibilities?

Abu Musa: The possibilities for an explosion still exist after the matters were concluded in Shatila and the camp became quiet again. We are working to bring life to normal in it and to return the people who left it. We have asked the other organizations to restore their military presence in the camp, because we believe in the coexistence of all factions in this camp, save 'Arafat's group because they have committed a long sabotage process against this camp since 1985 when the battles with Amal began.

Those who started the camps battles during 1985 and 1986 were the 'Arafatists and the infiltrators of and frenzied elements in the Amal Movement, which made a mistake in directing the battle. It was not striking against 'Arafat's group only, but against everybody.

Yesterday we met here, all Palestinian factions' leaders, and I affirmed that we are against opening fire and that we are not going to be the first to open fire against Burj al-Barajinah camp. In return, they should get a decision from 'Arafat not to open fire, because he is the decision-maker. They told me they are incapable of doing so. I proposed to them that members of Palestinian factions be placed at 'Arafat's positions in Burj al-Barajinah to oversee the cease-fire and to denounce us should we start firing. We believe in the coexistence of all factions in Burj al-Barajinah.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Including Fatah's group?

Abu Musa: Including even 'Arafat's group. We are prepared to socially coexist with them, but not politically.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What about the question of your regaining your offices in Burj al-Barajinah?

Abu Musa: Yes. I want to regain my offices and positions in Burj al-Barajinah camp. This is natural, but I do not want to regain them by force.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: And your offices in 'Ayn al-Hulwah?

Abu Musa: I do not demand a return to 'Ayn al-Hulwah because they did not force me out of there.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: The sequence of events which were affirmed by statements issued by 'neutral' Palestinian organizations suggest you did not abide by the agreements reached to give you back your offices in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah. Secondly, these statements and events indicate that you have carried out a destructive shelling against Shatila camp.

Abu Musa: Our comrades have accused us and said we are shelling, but we have challenged them to prove this.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Then, Abu Musa, who destroyed the camp?

Abu Musa: The camp was not destroyed. There was fighting in it with medium caliber weapons. The only heavy shelling came from the village of Mughayriyah by 'Arafat's group.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Do you mean 'Arafat's group shelled the camp?

Abu Musa: No. They did not directly shell the camp. They were shelling the camp surroundings, but because the shelling was not accurate, the camp received shells.

They say the camp was totally destroyed. The camp was destroyed 3 years ago. 'Arafat started the battle when he occupied four offices of ours in Shatila camp.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Does your conquering four offices justify the destruction that has taken place?

Abu Musa: 'Arafat does not want to stop at occupying four of our positions. He wants to erase our presence in Lebanon. That is the main issue. He has orders to eliminate us. After his visit to Damascus we voiced our opinion because we realize that 'Arafat's program is not the liberation program nor is it the national line program allied with Syria and the progressive forces. He exploited Abu Jihad's martydom and the pressure which resulted from Col al-Qadhdhafi, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, and the Soviet Union, so the brothers received him here. Then he exploited this visit to announce officially that my presence was not justified anymore.

Why? Was the justification for my existence as a part of this revolution cancelled merely because he met with the Syrian president? Why? Am I a Syrian? I am the National Palestine Liberation Movement, Fatah. This is my name. That is why we knew he was going to start a battle with us which he started in Sidon and then he followed me to Beirut. You might say we should not be led into battle? But what am I to do when he follows me? I left Sidon and he followed me to Beirut. And if I leave for the mountains he will follow me there. Then, where to?

I want to defend myself and the political concept I believe in which is: No international conference and no political solution. I disagree with all the other factions on the political program which the PLO is based on. However, this does not mean that I shoot them, but I just disagree with them politically.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Why did you not adhere to the latest 24 June agreement which guaranteed the return of your offices in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps within 24 hours where you said that you wanted to build these offices before lifting your siege of the camp, which came across as though you intentionally wanted to destroy the agreement?

Abu Musa: Yes. I want to rebuild my offices before I enter them. This, however, does not mean that the security force should not enter the camps and stop the fighting.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Isn't the reason that you had decided to enter Shatilla camp forcefully?

Abu Musa: Whoever wants to accuse us of that, should do so. The Libyan officers were understanding of our demands to rebuild our bureaus. How can we withdraw before things go back to normal? Is the area of the camp 'Arafat's property? The important thing is the cease-fire which I agreed to.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: But the other organizations say you are the one who did not abide by the cease-fire and hindered executing the agreement.

Abu Musa: That is what they say. But God is more honest and knows better than I do that I did not break the cease-fire. The proof of this is that 'Arafat has orders to eliminate me. AL-MUSTAQBAL: The Palestinian child who is fighting with stones and any other Palestinian can understand your political argument with Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'ArafatS] no matter how bitter, but he will not forgive your shelling and demolishing a camp because of this fight. They would not even forgive Abu 'Ammar. On the Palestinian street, you have become representative of hitting a Palestinian camp.

Abu Musa: At the same time though, I was a symbol of protecting the revolution. I was the one who created all the Fatah victories.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Why have you reached this stage?

Abu Musa: This question should be posed to 'Arafat. I know I cannot eliminate him and 'Arafat will not be eliminated only by leaving Shatila camp. I will not be eliminated by leaving 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. 'Arafat's program since 1976 has been to hit and eliminate anyone who opposes his program. How many times did he hit the PFLP? How many times did he hit ther DFLP and now they are his allies? His program consists of subduing others by force. We are the only ones in the Palestinian arena now who disagree with 'Arafat and oppose his political programs. In the Palestinian arena, all those who joined the PLO accept the international conference. I am the only one rejecting the international conference.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Isn't one of the reasons of the battle that you would suffer from the possible restoration of Syrian-PLO relations?

Abu Musa: This was said by Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], PFLP assistant secretary general, in an article in the magazine, AL-HADAF. I discussed the issue with George Habash. How could I be harmed? They said that 'Arafat's visit to Syria cancels the justification of my existence. This is an indirect accusation that I am a follower of Syria. I do not follow anyone other than my cause and people, not even the Soviet Union as some others might.

I told them this and reminded them that the doctor (George Habash) was asked once why he participated in the PNC meeting in Algiers. He said: This is the will of the proletariat comrades. I do not accept the will of the proletariat comrades. Firstly, what do I want and what do my people want? Should I be eliminated due to a Syrian decision? Do I receive any support from Syria? Syria has no money to give me. We agree with Syria politically. I respect Syria and side with it because of its stand. When 'Arafat visited Syria, I informed them of my disapproval in a public statemnent.

Central Committee Discusses 'Uprising,' Lebanon

JN1007185688 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1617 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Brothers: Fatah's Central Committee held a series of intensive meetings from 3 to 7 July 1988 and reviewed the current situation on the political and military fronts as well as the uprising in the occupied land and the situation in Lebanon.

It also dealt with Fatah's state of internal affairs. The Central Committee reviewed the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against our Palestinian people. The conspiracy's first chapter was the attempt to divorce the uprising from the PLO, calling the former a mere rootless, desperate reflex. However, the masses of the uprising announced to the entire world, through the Unified National Leadership, the truth about its genuine affiliation with the PLO and the Palestinian people, wherever they are.

The cohesion among all of the parties and trends in the occupied land and their melding as leaders and cadres under the banner of the PLO played a key role in beating the American plot, which has shifted to a new chapter—the worst chapter of state terrorism, which found expression in assassinating Palestinian leaders. They thought that the martyrdom of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] would undermine the uprising. However, his assassination produced a defiant, uproarious reaction that gave the uprising a new impetus that helped develop and escalate it.

The burial ceremonies for the symbol leader Abu Jihad and the concomitant overwhelming, popular plebiscite underscored the Syrian and Palestinian masses' adherence to the Palestinian revolution and leadership as well as the necessity to support them.

The Syrian Arab masses voiced their sentiments, which were in tune with the sentiments and aspirations of our people in occupied Palestine. Against this kind of background, the Syrian-Palestinian meetings got underway in the hope of opening a new chapter in the militant relations that streamline the efforts of a militant unity grouping the Palestinian revolution, Syria, and the Palestinian and Lebanese progressive, nationalist forces.

The Zionist response was swift and clear: An attack against southern Lebanon to warn the president of the renegade [Syrian] regime that his existence depends on keeping up his role of striking at the Palestinian revolution and that his rapprochement with the PLO clashes with the agreed tripartite scheme for Lebanon calling for terminating the Palestinian civilian presence in Beirut and southern Lebanon and ending the role of the fighting Palestinian gun and consequently granting security for the Israeli borders.

Far from moving the renegade regime's rulers to a sound pan-Arab stand, this Zionist defiance, provocation, and arrogance saw them submit to Zionist-imperialist terms. They took advantage of the Palestinian-Syrian thaw that materialized during the Damascus meeting [between 'Arafat and Al-Asad] in delivering their share in the scheme just as they did after the 1983 Damascus meeting when they triggered the attempted coup against our movement and the PLO under the aegis of the renegade regime. The aim is to mar the image of the Palestinian struggle, which peaked in the heroic steadfastness in the Lebanon war.

The renegade regime has relied on a band of mercenary intelligence agents now spreading the false dictum of Palestinian-Lebanese fighting and now spreading the dictum of Palestinian-Palestinian fighting. This is what the regime is seeking to repeat these days: Not only to tarnish the picture of the Palestinian struggle, but also to further the Zionist and imperialist interests in killing the uprising.

The renegade regime also wants to drive our masses in the occupied land to desperation in a transparent attempt to cover up its key role in the conspiracy which no longer deceives anyone, least of all our people in the occupied land. Our people in the occupied land are fully aware, as are the PLO and most of the Arab leaders, that the unfolding tragic chapters in Lebanon are neither a Lebanese-Palestinian battle nor a Palestinian-Palestinian one. Rather, it is an execution of the Zionist-imperialist conspiracy designed to strike the Palestinian revolution, Lebanon and its unity, and to abort the blessed uprising.

Therefore, these attempts will not weaken our people in the occupied territories; they will only further develop and escalate the uprising. The PLO has realized the dimensions of the scheme and its destructive effects as well as the amount of blood that will be squandered once it is implemented. Therefore, our movement exerted its utmost efforts to prevent the massacre and protect camps from destruction and our kinfolk from displacement and evacuation. It held intensive contacts with brothers and friends, who exerted thankful efforts to protect these good efforts, which ended in failure. Those who exerted these efforts denounced the scheme and refused to be a tool used in striking at the camps.

The latest of these efforts was the call made for a meeting by the Arab League's seven-member committee in charge of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon in the hope that this committee might succeed in ending the plot, rescuing what can be rescued, keeping the Palestinian camps in their places, returning our kinfolk to them, and building them so they might not be the beginning of an evacuation of Palestinian camps by Arab hands and thus be used as a cover for the Zionist entity's rulers to implement a similar scheme against our people's camps in the occupied territories.

The Central Committee appreciates and admires the escalating steadfast and heroic stand of our people in the occupied territories. It believes that the defiant will

characterizing our people will continue regardless of sacrifices because our people, who strongly believe in the inevitability of victory, are characterized by their constant readiness to sacrifice for the attainment of this victory. The heroic steadfastness of Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah over the past 6 years has set a heroic and extraordinary example for our people in the occupied territories and convinced the stone-throwing heroes of the people's ability to do miracles.

Consequently, the continuation of the uprising for the 8th month, its escalation, and its entrance into the stage of a popular revolution will be a militant model for all of our people inside and outside the occupied territories. It will also be the spirit that will flare up the will of steadfastness of our people's struggle in Lebanon's camps.

The Central Committee stresses to our people's masses that the seriousness of the plot and the diversification of its parties and tools will not divert our movement from its firm adherence to its principles and the national constants of our political movement, particularly those related to our people's historic rights and our national inalienable rights, icluding their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of an independent Palestinian state on their national soil, whose capital is holy Jerusalem. The Central Committee also stresses its adherence to the Algiers summit resolutions—the uprising summit—including those related to the authoritative international conference, in which the PLO participates in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and on an equal footing with all other participants.

In view of the seriousness of the current situation and the required precaution and constant action, the Central Committee has decided the following:

1. The Central Committee shall remain in a state of emergency and in an open session as of this date and until further notice;

2. There shall be movement in all arenas and in all militant areas through all available means to confront the tripartite scheme in Lebanon;

3. There shall be concentration on the escalating military situation in occupied Palestine. All energies shall be channelled toward serving the uprising and both continuing and escalating it until the attainment of the aspired national objectives;

4. There shall be work to solidify and reactivate the movement's institutions, organs, and organizational bodies and there shall be an immediate implementation of the Revolutionary Council's resolutions in a manner enabling the movement to play its necessary role in confronting the new challenges effectively, confidently, and successfully.

The Central Committee greets the uprising people in occupied Palestine, the camps masses in Lebanon, and all the forces that support our people's struggle and refuse to peddle the criminal schemes regardless of their source—schemes aimed at harming our revolution and people. The Central Committee makes a pledge to our people and revolutionaries that it will continue struggle and confrontation despite all difficulties. A pledge is a pledge and an oath is an oath. Revolution until victory.

Mosad 'Network' Linked to Al-Wazir Murder Exposed

JN1007152688 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
9 Jul 88 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Paris—AL-ITTIHAD has obtained important information confirming the involvement of a serious espionage network that works for the Israeli Mosad in Tunis in the assassination of Palestinian leader martyr Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] on 16 April. The Tunisian security organs discovered the dens of the networks and have so far arrested approximately 40 of its members, who include Tunisian Jews and some Palestinians, Lebanese, and Tunisians who reside abroad.

The network was discovered by putting under surveillance a sspect Tunisian Jew who called frequently at a house in a luxurious quarter in the Tunisian capital. An obscure Tunisian female artist who works at night clubs lives in that house. After putting the house under surveillance, it became clear that several persons, including Tunisian Jews, made frequent and regular calls at it. The Tunisian artist was arrested immediately and made revealing confessions which shed light on all the gang's dens.

Among what this artist said is that she had received a topographical survey of the city of Tunis and that she had given it to the Israeli Mosad, with which she has close ties, especially since she travels continuously to meet Mosad elements. Through her relationships with some Palestinians, she was able to obtain some photographs of Abu Jihad's house and to collect information about its location and the movements of its inhabitants.

Through the investigations with the detainees, it has become clear that they received funds from the Israeli Mosad of more than $10 million, that planning for the assassination began only 1 month after the eruption of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, that some of the network's elements were used to meet with high-ranking Israeli officials in European capitals and in the United States, and that other elements were able to make close ties with some people who had contacts with Abu Jihad and other Palestinian leaders with the objective of making it easy for them to monitor these leaders' activities and movements.

Algeria

Foreign Minister Holds Madrid News Conference

LD0707215388 Algiers APS in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Madrid, 7 Jul, APS—At a news conference prior to his departure from Madrid, Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi said his talks with Spanish officials addressed bilateral relations and current international issues.

The foreign minister pointed out that his visit to Spain took place in the context of the decision taken by the Governments of Algeria and Spain to intensify and regularize consultations.

The Algerian minister said that the establishment of a unified Arab Maghreb had already begun and expressed his hope for future relations between the European Economic Community and a Maghreb common market.

Dr Taleb Ibrahimi said Algeria is facilitating dialogue between Morocco and Sahara over the western desert. He said such a dialogue constitutes a positive factor in finding a peaceful, political solution to this problem.

Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi also announced a plan for a gas pipeline between Algeria and Morocco.

Egypt

Mubarak-Gorbachev Summit Expected Within Year

NC1207064088 Cairo MENA in English 0610 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, July 12 (MENA)—Diplomatic sources in Moscow expect a summit meeting to take place between President Husni Mubarak and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, AL-AHRAM reported today.

The paper said, quoting these sources, that the meeting may take place by the end of this year or the beginning of next year, after the development of Egypto-Soviet relations.

The paper referred to the present visit to Moscow by an Egyptian parliamentary delegation led by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, and said it marks a new phase of strong cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union at the parliamentary, political and popular levels covering the various economic, trade, technical and cultural fields.

Al-Baz Makes 'Unannounced' Visit to Algeria

JN1107135988 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that a high-ranking Egyptian envoy, Usamah al-Baz, chief of the Egyptian president's office, made an unannounced visit to Algeria last week. During his visit, he held talks with Algerian officials on containing the tension that recently marred relations between the two countries, and on searching for an acceptable way to restore diplomatic relations between them.

Arab diplomatic sources have stated to AL-ITTIHAD that Al-Baz' mission in Algeria was positive and it was agreed during the visit to resume Egyptian-Algerian relations soon. The sources added it was agreed to discuss the matter within the framework of exchanges of visits by senior officials in the two countries as there is a joint Egyptian-Algerian desire to resume diplomatic relations.

Reportage on Reactions to UK-Saudi Arms Deal

U.S. 'Peculiar Duality' Seen

NC1007053788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2113 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—In its Sunday edition, AL-AHRAM newspaper denounces the peculiar duality in U.S. decisionmaking which results in the White House and the Congress apparently moving in opposite directions. The resulting inconsistency, the paper says, can be anything but beneficial to the United States.

The paper is referring to the decision by the U.S. Senate 2 days ago to block the sale of air-to-surface missiles to Kuwait. The Senate's decision displeased President Ronald Reagan, who described it as too hasty. A White House spokesman said that the decision was regrettable. It would cause damage to U.S. foreign policy and lessen confidence in U.S. policy in the Gulf.

The paper also refers to the regret expressed by the White House when Saudi Arabia had to conclude a large arms contract, involving materiel worth tens of billions of pounds, with the UK, following the Congress' rejection of such a deal. President Reagan pointed out that U.S. companies could have benefited from such a contract, but it went instead to arms producers in another country.

AL-AHRAM says that the conflict in U.S. foreign policy-making stems from the fact that the White House believes that the Gulf countries should be enabled to defend themselves, while the Congress is still generally amenable to pressures that make it vote against the supply to Arab countries of the necessary weapons for their defense. The paper wonders why the Congress adopts positions that make it look as if it wants to prevent the Arab countries from achieving this end.

The paper concludes by saying that the Arab countries will not find it difficult to obtain weapons from sources other than the United States if the Congress does not budge from its rather intransigent positions.

'Zionist Lobby' Blamed

NC1107060588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR asserts that granting favors to the Jews in the United States by banning the export of sophisticated weapons to the Arab states has enormously harmed U.S. interests, and is still doing so. It has led to the loss of big contracts which could have helped to reduce the fearful deficit in the U.S. budget.

In its article tomorrow, Monday, the paper refers to the huge arms deal which Saudi Arabia has concluded with the UK, and to Jordan's inclination to obtain arms from Western Europe and the Soviet Union. The paper says: President Reagan's expression of his regret and sorrow at the loss of the Saudi arms contract, which the UK has won, because of Congress' refusal to sell sophisticated weapons to this Arab state reveals an obdurate and biased stand on the part of the U.S. legislative body. The U.S. Constitution empowers the Congress to oppose any arms deal that Washington might wish to make.

AL-AKHBAR adds: It is no secret that this stand by the Congress results from the fact that a majority of its members are committed to the Jewish and Zionist lobby. The lobby controls this strong organ and other U.S. bodies, particularly during pre-election periods.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR says: The Congress overlooks the fact that the arms industry is not a U.S. monopoly. There are many other sources and states which are eager to obtain contracts for the export of all kinds of weapons, particularly with countries that have huge financial resources and can pay straight away. The loser in the end is the U.S. voter, for whose vote the members of Congress are competing.

Israeli Reaction Assailed

NC1207083488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—The AL-AKHBAR newspaper has expressed its astonishment that Israeli Prime Minister Shamir should have accused the UK of wrecking peace in the Middle East, because of its arms deal with Saudi Arabia. The paper says that this accusation provokes derision rather than amazement, since the whole world knows that Shamir is the number one enemy of peace. He is the one who will go to any lengths to impede any endeavor aimed at returning calm to the region, including the endeavors by his only ally, the United States.

In its Tuesday editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that this arms deal has provoked intense anger among the Tel Aviv leaders, primarily Shamir, because it proves to them that the Arabs are capable of obtaining the weapons necessary for defending their territory from sources other than the country whose policy the Israelis control through the Congress and their supporters in it. The deal also proves to Washington that its submission to its pampered protege has caused the U.S. economy to lose a contract worth several billions of dollars.

The paper emphasizes that the UK arms deal with Saudi Arabia will have a more harmful effect on Israel. This is because the weapons that the UK sells to Saudi Arabia—or any other country—are not bound by the usual restrictions that Washington places on any arms it sells to Arab countries, insisting that they must not be used against Israel.

The paper states that one day the pro-Israel congressmen who are anxious to do anything to please the Zionist groups and Tel Aviv leaders will realize the extent of the loss they have caused to their homeland by their biased stand toward Israel. This is particularly true now that most Arab countries have turned to other sources for arms at a time when the U.S. budget deficit is increasing and the dollar is declining.

Envoy to USSR Denies Soviet Jews Granted Visas

JN1107145288 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Jul 88 pp 3,20

[Excerpt] Moscow—In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD yesterday, Salah Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador to the Soviet Union, said the Egyptian Embassy in Moscow has not received any applications from Soviet Jews for entry visas into Egypt, from which they can continue their journey to Israel.

The ambassador expressed surprise at such reports, declaring them sheer lies that are rejected by the Egyptian Embassy. He asserted that no quarter has raised the matter with the embassy.

Basyuni noted that after obtaining an exit visa, a Soviet Jew has to obtain from the Netherlands Embassy an entry visa for Israel as well as an entry visa to Austria. The Egyptian ambassador said that according to the latest statistics, about 1,400 Jews emigrated from the Soviet Union in June, only 40 of whom arrived in Israel. He said the embassy has never granted any Soviet Jew a transit visa to Egypt to proceed on to Israel. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Rejects IMF Higher Interest Rate Demand

NC1207081988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has disclosed that the IMF and the World Bank are demanding an increase in interest rates on loans and deposits and that the Egyptian Government rejects this demand.

Addressing the evening session of the Egyptian Industrial Development Conference which opened yesterday, Dr Sidqi noted that the most significant problems facing industrial investment in Egypt are the increasing interest

rates on loans and variable exchange rates. He added that the government's efforts are mainly designed to curb the effects of such problems.

Dr Sidqi agreed at the session to increase the Industrial Development Bank's capital to 100 million pounds, in a bid to enlarge the bank's role in supporting the private industrial sector and minor industries. He also authorized the bank to open new branches in newly established industrial cities.

Sidqi asked the Industrial Development Bank president to conduct a study of the problems arising from changes in exchange rates, as well as of the volume of outstanding debts. He is to submit the study to the meeting he will hold with representatives of Egyptian businessmen on 11 August.

Opposition Parties To Boycott Local Elections

JN0807110388 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
5 Jul 88 pp 1, 5

["Text" of statement by opposition party leaders at news conference at the Socialist Labor Party headquarters in Cairo on 4 July]

[Text] The opposition party leaders agreed on 18 June 1988 to boycott local council elections. They today affirm that the democratic process is being seriously imperiled and that this requires closing ranks and uniting stands. The state of emergency has become an everlasting tradition that restricts and threatens political action.

The rigging of elections has also become a normal procedure which no longer surprises anyone or warrants punishment. Continuous attacks are being made against the Constitution, and the passage of laws has become a frivolous game ignoring the most basic interests of the homeland and seeking only to fulfill the regime's personal and irresponsible interests on the basis of the artificial majority the NDP enjoys in the People's Assembly.

We would like specifically to note that the method of enacting the various laws has flouted all acknowledged regulations and procedures for safeguarding the soundness of all legislation. We see this in the submission of the most serious international agreements "if they are submitted for discussion." We also note this in the deliberations on the general budget and the development plan.

All the important laws are being prepared and promulgated without comprehensive study, without sufficient discussions in the various committees, and in a hasty manner within the People's Assembly. We wonder how a political system or a democratic course can enjoy stability when the legislative operation is carried out in the manner that we have mentioned.

The policy of impinging on the Constitution and tampering with legislation has been going on for a long time but recently intensified in an eye-catching manner. This implies a preplanned scheme to abort the democratic experience and make the multi-party system a screen concealing the rule of a one-party oligarchy. Such a rule tries to impose its will coercively on the people, not heeding any constitution, law, or custom. The recent local government law is an embodiment of all this. This law fundamentally conflicts with the Constitution's trend to achieve further government decentralization.

The ruling regime's insistence on holding local government elections on the basis of whole-party tickets conflicts with the viewpoint it adopted during the People's Assembly elections, which were based on party tickets but with proportional representation of the parties. This insistence is also in conflict with the legislator's intentions. This contradiction led to the higher constitutional court's abrogating some amendments that were introduced to the 1984 People's Assembly electoral law, to the dissolution of the assembly later on, and to the administrative courts' correction of the election results announced by the interior minister in 1987.

At the time, the state refused to comply with the court's decision and invoked many pretexts to avoid implementation. The court's decision should be enforced despite the appeal filed with the supreme administrative court. The court's decision continues to be paralyzed despite all the slogans that are raised about how the regime respects the judiciary's verdicts.

However, the ruling regime insists on adopting the worst elections system, that of whole-party tickets, which no country in the world applies because it facilitates the task of those who interfere in elections and rig them.

The amended local government law was referred to the People's Assembly in a hasty manner and was not subjected to the careful study to which all organic laws that complement the Constitution should be subjected. It came out distorted and contains three constitutional defects:

1. It adopted a specific system of local council elections in the manner that we have explained.

2. It divested local councils of their supervisory prerogatives over the local executive administration in violation of Article 162 of the Constitution, which stipulates the gradual transfer of authority to these councils. Unquestionably, this is a democratic setback because the prerogatives of the elected local councils have been restricted and their right to exercise control over the local executive authorities has been canceled, particularly their right to question governors and the heads of government departments. By granting the cabinet the right to dissolve them without cause, the local councils themselves have come under the control of the executive branch.

3. It criminalizes the formation of coalitions or alliances among the parties during elections. This conflicts with the freedom of opinion and political ideology that the Constitution has guaranteed. It is also in conflict with prevalent practices in democratic countries deserving the name.

This law not only considers this an electoral offense covered by Law No 73, dated 1956, on the regulation of political rights, which applies to local elections, but stipulates that the culprit will be punishable for the crime of forging the documents of public companies, cooperatives, and trade unions, which carries a penalty of up to 5 years in prison while the penalty for rigging elections is detention and a fine.

We affirm that this suspicious provision will terrorize the candidates and influence the election process. We believe that this is what is intended in the first place. Instead of enhancing the judiciary's supervision over the local council elections, the new law stipulates that the public security director will hold the elections for the local councils.

The General Assembly of the Egyptian Judges Association had called for an effective supervision by the judiciary over the elections out of concern for the judges' reputation. At their conference in Cairo on 5 February 1987, the opposition parties unanimously decided that there is a need to codify the guarantees for free and fair elections to be supervised by an independent commission of judges to achieve sound democracy.

From this premise, the opposition parties unanimously agree on the following:

1. To boycott the elections the ruling regime will hold for local councils.

2. To adopt legal measures to contest in the courts the constitutionality of the local government law, prior to its cancellation, and subsequently the cancellation of the local councils that will be formed on the basis of this law.

3. To continue consultations among the representatives of the opposition parties to defend the citizens in obtaining their rights from local administrations, protect all those who confront the erroneous decisions of these administrations and their misguided behavior, and protect honest employees and workers, who refuse to obey illegal decisions that violate all laws and regulations, from all types of pressures to make them act against the dictates of their consciences.

4. To resort to all means to codify the guarantees that are needed to secure free and fair elections, foremost of which is the establishment of an independent commission of judges instead of the Interior Ministry. There is no hope that any reforms can be carried out so long as the Interior Ministry is responsible for holding elections.

5. To appeal to all popular organizations, trade unions, factional [fi'awiyah] clubs, leagues, and federations to hold seminars to explain these concepts, and adopt methods in line with their status to express their viewpoint on these concepts so that they may be implemented later.

The opposition parties affirm that their boycott of the local council elections does not stem from a negative stand and does not mean that they are withdrawing from political battles. These parties have decided to carry out a political struggle for the sake of the nation's rights by all available means, such as inviting the political forces to form a national front and formulate a national charter for the defense of liberties.

We proclaim to our people that we pledge to pursue the struggle to enhance freedom and its guarantees. God provides support.

[Signed] Fu'ad Siraj al-Din, Wafd Party leader; Ibrahim Shukri and Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, on behalf of the Alliance; Khalid Muhyi al-Din, NPUG secretary general; Mustafa Kamil Murad, Liberal Party leader; and Ahmad al-Sabahi, 'Ummah Party leader

Libya

More on Visit by Tunisian Prime Minister

Discusses Bilateral Ties

LD1107165588 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Major Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi received Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Interior Minister Habib Ammar, and their delegation this morning for about 2 hours in his office in Tripoli. During the meeting, they discussed and reviewed the great developments in the fraternal relations between the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia. They also discussed and reviewed a number of Arab and international issues of common interest and Arab Maghreb unity.

The meeting was attended by the General People's Committee secretary, the Great Jamahiriyah's permanent Arab League delegate, the resident secretary of the Great Jamahiriyah to Morocco, and the Tunisian prime minister's delegation.

In a statement to JANA after his meeting with Maj Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, Brother Hedi Baccouche said his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah came in the context of the continuous contacts between the two fraternal countries to boost the fraternal relations that are developing day by day.

He said: We are all working to boost and promote these relations to move them to match the aspirations for solidarity and unity of the one Arab people in the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia. This is now possible after 7 November and in view of the fraternal ties between President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and the Fatih revolution's leader, which will permit the achievement of the two peoples' aspirations under the best conditions and timing.

He said this visit was distinguished by the fact that it ensures continuous momentum in fraternal bilateral relations. He said: During this visit I have spoken of the scope of the Arab Maghreb in general, which is part of the Arab homeland and in which there are opportunities that must be exploited.

Brother Hedi Baccouche recalled the visit to Algeria by the brother leader of the revolution, his participation in the extraordinary Arab summit, his meeting with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and all the presidents, and the meeting of Arab Maghreb leaders.

He said that as citizens and sons of one people, working for the good of our nation, we believe this meeting was one of the most important events in the Maghreb since independence. He also said that during the summit meeting of Arab Maghreb leaders, it had been decided to set up a high-level commission to prepare a practical plan for unity. We agree on unity as a goal, but we must still make it a reality.

Brother Hedi Baccouche said this commission would hold its first meeting in Algiers, and its meetings would then continue on a regular basis in every Arab Maghreb country, once a month, so that in just a few months we can prepare a document to be submitted to these countries' leaders. Our meetings in the Great Jamahiriyah have dealt with these subjects and trends.

Received by Jallud

LD1207093488 Tripoli JANA in English 1653 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—At noon today, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud received Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister of sisterly Tunisia.

The meeting was attended by "Habib Ammar" the minister of the interior in Tunisia, Great Jamahiriyah's permanent envoy to the league of Arab countries, the resident secretary of Great Jamahiriyah to Morocco, Tunisia's envoy to Great Jamahiriyah and the delegation accompanying the Tunisian prime minister.

Al-Qadhdhafi To Send Letter on Israeli Missiles

LD1007155988 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA has learnt that the leader of the revolution is to send important letters to Arab presidents and monarchs regarding the new danger posed by the Zionist enemy possession of long range missiles carrying nuclear heads and the accord concluded between the President of the American administration Reagan and the Zionist war minister, terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin, on the development of these missiles so as that the Arab reaction will be at the level of the challenges threatening Arab existence.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Mauritanian Minister

LD0807150488 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1405 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Jul (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Mohamed Ould Nany, Mauritanian economy and finance minister, [title as received] who conveyed to him a verbal message from Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya.

Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Burkina Faso's Compaore

LD1107120888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli 11 Jul—JANA—The brother leader of the revolution has held a telephone conversation with Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the Popular Front in the Burkinabe Jamahiriyah. [as received]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Bulgarian Ambassador

LD1007092388 Tripoli JANA in English 0853 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received the ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to Great Jamahiriyah who delivered to him a letter from the president of Bulgaria Todor Zhivkov.

DFLP Leader Urges Al-Qadhdhafi Camp Mediation

LD0907220888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1645 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Jul (JANA)—DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has urged the brother leader to continue his great efforts to stop the fratricide in the Palestinian camps, stressing the insistence of the sons of the Palestinian Arab people that such efforts should continue.

Nayif Hawatimah has acquainted the brother leader with the serious situation facing the Palestinian Arab people as a result of this fratricide.

Briefs

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Syrian Gift

The brother leader of the revolution received the brother head of the Syrian Arab Relations Bureau on the occasion of the completion of his term of office in the Great Jamahiriyah. The brother head of the Syrian Arab Relations Bureau presented the leader of the revolution with an Arab sword, as a symbol of the strength of Arab determination, confirming the strength of Arab determination through unity and of the idea that what is taken by force cannot be retrieved without it. The head of the Syrian Arab Relations Bureau expressed his appreciation and satisfaction over the brotherly treatment he received and the good circumstances that contributed toward the success of his mission during his term of office in the Great Jamahiriyah. He also emphasized that the Arab

people in the two countries will continue to stand in one trench to confront imperialism, Zionism, and reaction until the Arab nation's objectives of unity and victory over its enemies are achieved. [Text] [*LD1007034288 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jul 88*]

Mauritania

Head of State Warns Against Spread of Rumors

AB1107213588 Paris AFP in French 1441 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Nouakchott, 11 Jul (AFP)—In a message broadcast to the nation yesterday on the occasion of Mauritanian Armed Forces Day, the head of state, Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, issued a warning to those who propagate "alarming rumors" and take pleasure in circulating "stories of hatred and confusion" among the people.

According to observers, the Mauritanian head of state was alluding to the recent rumors denounced by a high-ranking official of the Ministry of Interior following the assassination in Nouakchott of two persons, one of whom is a foreigner. According to the police, the assassination is nothing but "an ordinary crime."

In Dakar, FLAM (African Liberation Forces of Mauritania militants—a black-African opposition movement) had said that the killings resulted from racial clashes that occurred in a popular market in the Mauritanian capital on 28 June.

The head of state emphasized the "responsibilities of each citizen" in maintaining freedom and in ensuring the safety of national property. He also asserted the firm willingness of the state to assume its responsibilities. He emphasized that defaulters would be made to "face the full rigor of the law."

The Mauritanian head of state's address centered essentially on the pursuit of the national recovery effort and the important role that the Army must play in explaining national issues.

The Armed Forces Day celebration was, as usual, marked by a flag raising ceremony and popular activities.

Further on 'Racial Killings'

AB0907102488 Paris AFP in French 2053 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Dakar, 8 July (AFP)—A recent clash in a Nouakchott popular quarter resulted in two deaths, it was learned in Dakar today. Various sources reporting on the incident interpreted the events differently. According to authoritative Mauritanian sources, a quarrel which broke out on 28 June between hawkers resulted in the death of two persons, one of whom is a foreigner, probably a Senegalese.

The African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (FLAM—black Mauritanian underground opposition), on their part, indicated in a communique sent to AFP in Dakar that the deaths, which took place during a "racial clash" at a market in the Mauritanian capital, have created a "situation of civil war which left three people dead and several others wounded."

In Nouakchott, Police Inspector Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed Cisse, a high-ranking official of the Ministry of Interior, on the night of 6 July called on the population to stop creating a "mind-poisoning atmosphere." The inspector stated that the two crimes had given rise to a wave of rumors, thus "complicating the work of the police."

Authorized sources in Nouakchott add that it was simply a criminal problem which goes with urbanization. The police inspector called on the people to "forget their rural mentality and try to adapt themselves to modern life" and gave the assurance that the investigations would help to arrest the criminals who "will be punished in accordance with the law."

The FLAM, which has demonstrated on several occasions, notably 2 years ago when it demanded greater representation of the black-African community in the country's political and economic structure, denounced the stranglehold of the Baydane (Arabo-Berber) community in Mauritania.

On the Senegalese side, a meeting of the representatives, cadres and natives of the Podor and Matan regions bordering the Senegal River expressed their indignation with the confiscation by the Mauritanian authorities of "thousands of hectares of land" tilled "from time immemorial" by Senegalese nationals.

The meeting, convened by the religious head of the ethnic group that lives along the river, the Toucouleurs, was held mid-June under the auspices of the khalife general of the Tidianes (one of the two most important Muslim brotherhoods in the country).

Sudan

'Source' Denies Reports Relief Aid Sold in North

JN0707213188 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jul 7 (SUNA)—A reliable source at the Commission of Relief and Rehabilitation (C.R.R.) has denied news circulated by some Western media that relief stuffs had been sold in northern Sudan instead of being distributed to the famine-hit people in southern Sudan.

The source described such news as "groundless".

The source in a statement today said about 10,282 tons of maize and lentils offered by the USAID, the EEC, the World Food Programe and the World Churches Council were dispatched to Juba, southern Sudan, during the period from first July 87 up to January 88.

During the period from first July 87 up to June 88 more than 1,642 tons of sourghum, 286 tons of maize and 450 tons of sourghum [as received] were shipped from Nairobi to southern Sudan, the source said.

The source added that about 9,328 tons of food supply were on way to Juba.

It said 3200 tons of food supply offered by Italian aid were transported from Nairobi to Juba and 200 other tons were on the way from Nairobi to Juba.

12,000 Eritrean Refugees Arrive in Eastern Region
LD1007165388 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] About 12,000 Eritrean refugees have arrived in the Eastern Region in the past few days, 10,000 of them centered around Kassala town and 2,000 around the Qarurah area [placename as received].

Hassan Atiyyah, the refugee commissioner, said the refugees will be moved to distant areas away from towns, their stay will be temporary and will end when the reason for their taking refuge in Sudan is removed.

His excellency described the cause as an objective emergency, because they had been affected by the military operations in the Eritrea region which had forced them to enter Sudan looking for [word indistinct], protection and to save their lives and property.

The refugee commissioner said: Although Sudan has announced its policy of not accepting any more refugees, it has accepted these refugees for purely humanitarian reasons due to its commitment to international charters on refugees.

Tunisia

Baccouche, Ammar To Give Al-Qadhdhafi Message
LD1007120088 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has entrusted Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Interior Minister Habib Ammar with a mission to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The mission is part of efforts at further consolidating the ties of fraternity and cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

This morning at the Republic Palace in Carthage, the head of state gave Hedi Baccouche and Habib Ammar a message for Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message is part of the continuous consultations between the two governments about all issues of common interest at the bilateral, Maghrebian, or Arab level. These consultations are being held to provide a suitable basis for common action on these various levels.

Ben Ali Receives Algerian Information Minister
LD1007110288 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Textx] Algiers, 10 July (APS)—The information minister, Bachir Rouis was audienced on Saturday, in Tunis, by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The minister said he transmitted to the Tunisian president salutations of President Chadli Bendjedid.

Bachir Rouis participated to the works of the Arab commission of information charged of backing up the Palestinian uprising and paid a working visit in Tunisia.

Mauritanian Foreign Minister Arrives 10 Jul
LD1007232388 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Jul 88

[TExt] The Foreign Minister of the Islamic [Republic] of Mauritania, Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, arrived this evening in Tunis on an official visit during which he will lead his country's delegation to the proceedings of the Tunisian-Mauritanian higher commission, which start tomorrow.

The Mauritanian minister was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri, among others.

Former Bourguiba Aide Faces Embezzlement Charges
LD0907225988 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Excerpt] In Tunisia, the trial of Mansour Skhiri has been adjourned until 21 July. The former close aide of Habib Bourguiba is being tried for misappropriation of public funds and for various other embezzlement offences. A heavy prison sentence is possible. Reda Bougezi comments:

[Bougezi] Just by reading the list of charges against him, it is apparent that Bourguiba's former muscleman risks 20 years hard labor, not suprisingly, since about 15 state public contracts worth F80 million were awarded with his help to an entrepreneur who was none other than his brother. This is just one detail in the long list of abuses of power attributed to the former minister who, like Bourguiba, is from Monastir. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Shaykh Sa'd Meets Carlucci, Tours Pentagon

LD1107202388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1714 GMT 11 Jul 88

[By Raphael Calis and Rashid al-Ruwayshid

[Text] Washington, July 11 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah held high-level talks here Monday with top Reagan administration officials at the Defense Department on bilateral defense issues, security in the Arabian Gulf region, and other related matters.

Shaykh Sa'd, who arrived in Washington on Sunday and will meet with President Reagan on Tuesday, received top military honors on arrival at the Pentagon where he was received by Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci and other top defense officials.

Shaykh Sa'd was accompanied by Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, and Minister of State for Foreign affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi.

After the official welcoming ceremony, Shaykh Sa'd and Defense Secretary Carlucci held a private meeting, followed by an extended meeting with all the top aides from both sides.

The American side, in addition to Carlucci, included among others Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage, Assistant Secretary of Defense Edward Ghnem, and other top military officials. The ambassador of the U.S. in Kuwait was also present.

The one-hour meeting was followed by a working lunch held in honor of Shaykh Sa'd and the accompanying delegation.

After lunch, Shaykh Sa'd toured the Pentagon facilities and the headquarters of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), where he held separate talks with the command's chief officer, Gen. Crist. This was followed by another meeting with Gen. Robert T. Herras, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The talks at the Pentagon covered a wide range of defense and security issues related to Kuwait and the Gulf region.

The topics focused heavily on ways of ending the Iran-Iraq war, now in its eighth year. The two sides also reviewed Kuwait's request for F-18 planes and the accompanying defense pacakge, which is now under debate in the U.S. Congress.

Last week, the Senate blocked the sale of 300 AGM-650 and Maverick missiles, but signalled its approval of the rest of the package, including the 40 F-18 fighter bomber planes. After the vote, Kuwait's Ambassador to the U.S. Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah told newsmen that Kuwait's position has been made clear to the Reagan administration.

Kuwait, he said, insisted on a complete package that includes the planes and all the accompanying defense equipment. The ambassador said in his statement that the Mavericks are a vital part of the package and cannot be blocked from the 1.9-billion dollars sale.

As submitted by the administration, the defense package to Kuwait, in addition to the 40-F18s—manufactured by McDonnell-Douglas—includes 120 AIM-9L Sidewinder missiles, 200-7F Sparrow missiles, 40 Harpoon missiles, and the 300 Mavericks in addition to spare parts, support equipment and services, training and 200 cluster bomb units.

The Reagan administration, in its submission of the request to Congress, noted that the Kuwait Air Force needs the F-18s to replace the aging A-4 fighter-attack aircraft which are based on 1960s technology.

The administration stressed the fact that the sale will enhance Kuwait's readiness to meet external aggression, develop increased equipment commonality with U.S. forces, and that Kuwait will have no difficulty in absorbing these aircraft and munitions into its armed forces.

Kuwait has made it clear that the purchase of the arms from the United States is part of its consistent policy of diversifying its sources of arms.

Kuwaiti ministers have also made it clear that if the Congress blocks the sale or scales it down, Kuwait has alternative sources of arms from other countries.

On Sunday, Kuwait's defense minister announced that it had concluded an agreement with the Soviet Union to buy unspecified military equipment.

The ministry said the deal was signed on Saturday by Defense Minister Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad and Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Yuriy Grishin.

Paper Blames U.S. Senate for Blocking Arms Sale

LD1207093088 Kuwait KUNA in English 0836 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 12 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper Tuesday faulted the U.S. Senate for blocking part of an arms sale to Kuwait and indicated that America's own interest would be the side to be hurt most by the Senate's attitude.

By blocking the sale of the Maverick missiles to Kuwait, "the Senate has put Israel's interest ahead of that of America's," said AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in an editorial.

In question was an arms deal under which Kuwait would purchase 40 F-18 aircraft and other military hardware which was to include the Maverick missiles.

Kuwait, the paper added, has the means and options to do its military shopping anywhere else and to obtain the quantities and quality it is seeking. AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM made it a point to remind the U.S. Senate that the Congress had already made the U.S. lose a multi-billion-dollar deal when it rebuffed a huge Saudi arms order.

The coveted sale went to Britain which agreed to supply the Saudi Kingdom with Tornado aircraft, helicopters and other types of weaponry.

Referring to a White House statement which regretted the loss of the Saudi deal to Britain, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said with a touch of cynicism:

"We believe we will not have to wait long to know if the White House would be obliged to issue a similar statement expressing regret that Kuwait turned to buy British, French...and perhaps Chinese, Korean and Soviet weapons."

Linking Israel to the Senate's position, the paper said "if the Senate wanted Kuwait to turn to another arms supplier, Israel is also trying to make America lose another 20 billion dollars."

Another Kuwaiti newspaper ferociously attacked the Zionist lobby in America for blocking the Saudi arms order.

KUWAIT TIMES, in an editorial comment, cited the blocking by the Congress of the Saudi deal to point to what it saw as other blunders in U.S. Mideast policy.

"...The ruling elements in the U.S. have characterized their attitudes to the Middle East Arabs with a tendency which can only be described as adolescent caprice," the paper said.

Emphasizing the impact of the Zionist lobby on American Mideast policy, the paper said "There has been a Zionist finger in every pie, a Zionist spoke in every moving wheel. It is none but the Zionists who landed a credulous Ronald Reagan into his Iranian fiasco."

The KUWAIT TIMES, meanwhile, praised Britian for meeting Saudi Arabia's arms requirements. Referring to UK's past association with the region, the paper found "a reason to regret" that the British have abandoned the Middle East "to U.S. stewardship."

UK Defense Secretary Comments on Arms Sales

LD1107203088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1727 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 11 (KUNA)—British Defense Secretary George Younger arrived here tonight on a two-day visit to Kuwait.

A British Embassy press release had said that Younger, who is visiting Kuwait at the invitation of Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, will meet with a number of Kuwaiti officials topped by Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Shaykh Nawwaf and Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah.

The release said that the talks are expected to cover bilateral relations particularly in defense spheres along with the security situation in the Gulf and other issues of common interest.

Younger, a Conservative member of Parliament, has been in his post since 1986.

Younger told reporters on arrival that this is his first visit to Kuwait and he is looking forward to having talks with Kuwaiti officials.

Regarding the possibility that his country would supply Kuwait with Tornado jetfighters, he commented that Kuwait and U.K. enjoy a strong defence relationship which will continue, pointing out that his discussions will tackle all "aspects of defence".

The British defence official added that the U.K. will be ready to discuss any Kuwaiti defence needs.

On the Israeli protest over the British-Saudi arms deal, Younger said Israel always protests whenever a deal with the Saudis is signed and "it does not make any material difference".

Younger was received on arrival by Kuwaiti Defence Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah and other top officials.

Foreign Minister on Talks With Soviet Envoy

LD1207054088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1343 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 11 (KUNA)—Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Monday announced that the Soviet Union would not resume relations with the Israeli entity unless after Israel formally accepts participation in a 'serious' international conference to settle the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian question.

Shaykh Sabah made the statement to newsmen following a meeting today with the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, Ernest Zverev, who apprised him of results of the 19th All-Union Conference of the Soviet Communist Party, recently held in Moscow.

The acting prime minister indicated that the Soviet envoy has also acquainted him with the reforms under way in the Soviet Union at this stage.

Shaykh Sabah told newsmen that the Soviet ambassador has renewed his country's stance from the Middle East problem and continued support of convening the international conference on peace in the Middle East. He also reassured that there will be no relations between the Soviet Union and Israel unless after (Israel's) acceptance of (taking part in) a serious international conference.

Saudi Arabia

AL-YAWM Criticizes Congress on Kuwait Arms Deal

JN1107191988 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 10 Jul 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Israel, the U.S. Complex"]

[Text] As soon as the U.S. Government announced its intention to conclude a big arms deal with Kuwait, the Israeli lobby in the U.S. Congress became indignant and threatened to veto the deal because, according to them, it poses a threat to Israel.

Israel is the contemporary complex of the United States. Indeed, the reputation of the American nation has been soiled several times just so that Israel will not be angered. Congress knows nothing in the world other than Israel. Indeed, many of its members have not defended their own country and citizens as much as they have defended Israel. Because of this complex, Americans have begun to see things with half an eye and approach events without the moral commitment or responsibility required for administering a super power.

They are talking about Israel's alleged security, although U.S. Governments have given Israel every guarantee and all the means of strength to persist in its terrorism, aggression, and expansion. Congress forgets that Kuwait badly needs to strengthen its defenses, particularly as it is close to another power, Iran, whose rulers are resorting to every method of terrorism and aggression without the least sense of responsibility.

Indeed. U.S. Vice President George Bush has said the Iranian rulers are crazy terrorists and it is impossible to predict how they will behave. Therefore, Kuwait has to take all possibilities into account so it can face various future possibilities.

The Israeli lobby in Congress forgot an important observation; namely, that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the Gulf states can buy arms from any side in the world, for the production of sophisticated weapons is not confined to U.S. factories.

If Israel's American lobby continues to subject the United States to the decision of a gang in Tel Aviv that kills and perpetrates crimes, then the entire American nation will continue to be hostage to men whose imagination is too narrow to consider logically the behavior of a nation that has freedom and the means of greatness.

United Arab Emirates

President Receives Reagan, Velayati Condolences

JN1007175488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, has received a message of condolences from U.S. President Ronald Reagan over the death of a number of UAE citizens in the Iranian airbus incident.

The message was handed to Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, UAE Foreign Ministry under secretary, by the U.S. deputy charge d'affaires in the UAE. During the meeting, they also reviewed current developments in the Arabian gulf region as well as bilateral relations.

Later, Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid also received a message of condolences from Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati addressed to Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, over the death of a number of UAE citizens in the Iranian plane incident. The messsage was conveyed by Iranian Ambasador to the UAE Mostafa Haeri-Fumani.

More on Visit by PDRY President, Delegation

Ramadan Meets Husaynun

JN0807123688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1006 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today met with Mr Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, PDRY deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals.

Both ministers expressed their satisfaction over the progress of the technical committees belonging to the joint Iraqi-Yemeni committee for trade, economic and technical cooperation.

They affirmed that the committees reflected a serious and mutual desire to find broad new fields, which will form a wide base for the progress of bilateral relations in all fields.

They also discussed the importance of the visit by Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to Iraq and the discussions he will hold with President Saddam Husayn, thus affirming the concern of both leaders over the necessity to develop relations between the two brotherly nations.

Taha Yasin Ramadan and Abu Bakr Husaynun pointed out that the meeting between President Saddam Husayn and President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas at this time specifically, indicates the advanced level of the relations between them and the deep concern for widening them so that they serve the interests of the two nations and the Arab nation.

The first deputy prime minister affirmed President Saddam Husayn's interest and directions to strengthen relations with the Arab brothers. This will help national and pan-Arab issues and will contribute toward strengthening joint Arab action to confront conspiracies and aggressions to which the Arab nation is exposed by the Zionists and Khomeyniites.

The PDRY official extended congratulations from the government and people of the PDRY to the Iraqi people over the victories achieved by the Armed Forces, since they are a source of pride to the Arab nation.

He affirmed the determination of the leadership in his country to strengthen relations with Iraq in all fields.

Talks Begin 9 Jul

JN0907205688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Official talks between the two brotherly countries Iraq and the PDRY began in Baghdad tonight. The Iraqi side was headed by President Leader Saddam Husayn, and the PDRY side was headed by Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium.

The talks dealt with the fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries. It was agreed to promote these relations in all fields. Both sides praised the success and positive resolutions of the Amman and Algiers summits toward consolidating the capability of the Arab nation and supporting the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories, as well as supporting Iraq and its people in their efforts to achieve peace and stands that call for the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598.

President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas highly evaluated Iraq's victories in liberating its occupied territories as a basic step toward peace.

Both sides strongly condemned the Palestinian bloodshed in the camps and expressed the view that these incidents sharply affect the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and harm their just cause. They called for an immediate halt to the fighting and bloodshed of the Palestinian people.

On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; the secretary of the president; Hani Wuhayyib, press and media secretary of the president; Quday Sa'id 'Abd al-Fattah, secretary of the Ministry of Trade; and the Iraqi ambassador in Aden.

On the PDRY side, the talks were attended by Salih Abu Bakr bin Husaynun, deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of foreign affairs; Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum minister of culture and information; Ja'far Sa'id Ibn Salih, director of the president's office; Hasan Muhammad Habishi, deputy minister of industry, trade, and supply; and the PDRY ambassador in Baghdad.

President leader Saddam Husayn hosted a dinner banquet in honor of his guest, PDRY President Hyadar Abu Bakr al-'Attas. The dinner was attended by members of the delegations, as well as RCC members, the chairman of the president's office, ministers, the secretary of the president, and a number of officials.

Cultural Accord Signed

JN1007134088 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 10, INA—An agreement for cultural and information cooperation between Iraq and Democratic Yemen was signed here today by Mr Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, and his Yemeni counterpart Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Jarhum.

The agreement provides for cooperation between the two countries in fields of culture and information, including exchange of cultural, artistic and scientific publications, historical documents and musical recordings.

The agreement also regulates cooperation between TV and radio stations of the two countries and exchange of programmes and also stepping up cooperation between the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY and the NEWS AGENCY OF DEMOCRATIC YEMEN.

'Aziz Confers With Al-Dali

JN1007182088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 10 Jul 88

[text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali today. During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Iranian aggression against Iraq as well as the threats against the Arabian Gulf states as a result of that aggression. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the PDRY ambassador in Baghdad.

Economic, Trade Accord Signed

JN1107104688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—Iraq and the PDRY today signed an accord for economic, trade, technical, scientific, and cultural cooperation.

The signing ceremony was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister. The accord provides for improving cooperation between companies and authorities specializing in economic, agricultural, cultural, and scientific subjects in both Iraq and the PDRY.

The accord, which is valid for 5 years, was signed by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih on the Iraqi side, and Salih Abu Bakr Husaynun, deputy prime minister and energy and minerals minister, on the PDRY side.

Al-'Attas Departs

JN1107164788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the PDRY, left Baghdad this morning after a 3-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

In a statement to INA, Al-'Attas expressed his deep satisfaction with the honest and friendly atmosphere that prevailed in the talks. He said that he highly appreciates the frank talks he held with his brothers in the Iraqi leadership, especially with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He added that the talks dealt with major developments in the lives of both countries and peoples and that views were exchanged on ways to promote bilateral cooperation in the various political, economic, cultural, and social areas.

Al-'Attas added that agreement was reached on a number of issues pertaining to joint cooperation and the exchange of expertise and information and that the future requires joint efforts to implement what was agreed on in favor of the two countries and national and pan-Arab causes.

Al-'Attas added that he discussed with President Saddam Husayn and the brothers in the Iraqi leadership the current developments in the Arabian Gulf region, especially the Iraq-Iran war and its threats to the present and future of its people. He said: We have stressed the PDRY's position toward the disasters this has caused to the Iraqi and Iranian peoples as well as the need to put an end to it because its continuation endangers the security and stability of the entire region's peoples. He also affirmed that the PDRY believes Security Council Resolution No 598 constitutes a good basis for ending the war.

He added: We expressed to our brothers in Iraq our appreciation and respect for their positive position on the resolution as well as for their efforts to bring about peace. We also voiced our pride in Iraq's restoration of its occupied territories. Within this framework, we express hope that the Iranian side will take a positive position on resolution No 598 and other peace efforts and end this war to bring about security and peace in the region.

President Abu Bakr al-'Attas also said that the current Arab situation requires more efforts to support Arab solidarity and take a unified Arab position against the dangers threatening the Arab nation. He said: We express our satisfaction with the outcome of the Amman and Algiers summits in this regard, and we stress our support for the heroic struggle of the Palestinian Arab people to regain their full legitimate national right to self-determination, repatriation, and the establishment of their independent national state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

He added: After reviewing the latest developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, we agreed that our two countries support the brave uprising of the masses of the occupied territories because it is a qualitative contribution to the lengthy and just struggle of the Palestinian Arab people against the unjust Zionist occupation.

Concluding his statement, Al-'Attas voiced his admiration for progress in Iraq in the various fields. He also expressed his gratitude to President Saddam Husayn and the political leadership in Iraq for the warm reception he was accorded during the visit.

Spokesman Says Iran Killed POW's at Al-Faw

JN1107144088 Baghdad INA in English 1412 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 11, INA—Forces of the Iraqi Army 7th Corps, following Al-Faw liberation battles of last April, found bodies of Iraqi military left in the open since the occupation of Al-Faw.

An Iraqi military field commander told INA today that hands and feet of the Iraqi military were tied with ropes. A thing which proves that they were executed after falling into captivity.

"There are predictions [as received] that the Iraqi military were taken to the rear lines then fire was opened on them, as several groups of rope-tied bodies were found scattered all over the battle field from the forward positions to the depth of the occupied land," the field commander said.

It is to be noted that a similar crime was committed by Iranian troops in Mawat northern area, as Iraqi forces after re-gaining the area from the Iranians recently, found remains of rope-tied murdered Iraqi military.

UN Team To Check on POW Conditions in Iran

JN0707212788 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The United Nations last night announced that it will dispatch an international mission at Iraq's request to investigate the conditions of a number of Iraqi POW's whose destiny is unknown in Iran. A spokeswoman for the United Nations yesterday said that Javier Perez de Cuellar met in Geneva with officials at the International Committee for the Red Cross for this purpose. She said that the date of dispatching the mission will be announced later. [passage omitted]

UN Team Examines Chemical Weapons Victims

JN1107143588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1203 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—During its visit to the Al-Sulaymaniyah sector in northern Iraq, a UN team examined several Iraqis, who are being treated in hospitals for injuries caused by chemical weapons used by the Iranian regime against them. The international team examined the chemical military equipment used by the Iranian regime. It visited Iraqi soldiers, who are being treated in hospitals for their injuries caused by Iranian chemical weapons. The team acquainted itself with the equipment and fragments that prove the use of the chemical weapons by the Iranian forces.

It has been learned that the team appointed by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar comprises three experts, who are currently visiting Iraq to check the traces of chemical weapons used by the Iranian regime's forces in a number of military sectors.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,251

JN1207083088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1526 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Communique no. 3,251 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 July]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Pursuant to the instructions of our leader Saddam Husayn, who is supported by God, in continuation of the Muhammad Rasulullah operations, after our brave Armed Forces in the I Army Corps purged the Mawat basin and Timar area, and in accordance with and under the supervision of the I Army Corps Headquarters under Staff Major General Sultan Hashim Ahmad and his staff, Saqr Quraysh forces and affiliated forces under the command of Brigadier General 'Ali Muhammad Shallal rushed forward and managed to purge the (Bathni) basin and the important strategic (Sirisyu) mountain range, which extends 25 km with its peaks (Fazarah), (Dasht Bari), and Shalghan mountain as well as peaks 2,088, 2,138, 2,112, 2,217, 2,165, 2,170, 2,002, 2,156, 2,160, 2,231, 2,227, 1,948, 1,870, and 1,848 meters.

The Spidarah valley was also purged, and our border posts (Mawarin), Shihab al-Din, and (Shwaykil) were liberated. These large and rough areas were liberated during a heroic battle on the mountains waged by our brave men.

The battle lasted 4 days under the capable field command of the corps and the Saqr Quraysh force through splendid cooperation between the brave infantry men and the brave armor men, who played a decisive and distinguished role in supporting the brave infantry men. Our heroic Air Force, our brave artillery, the knights of the helicopter gunships, and the men of the military engineering, the torches of the homeland, also extended effective support.

During these operations, our territory mentioned above was liberated from the filth of the enemies by our forces, which either killed or wounded very large numbers. Others were also captured, and large quantities of weapons and equipment were seized.

Investing this great victory, the Al-Zubayr ibn al-'Awwam forces and their affiliated forces under staff brigadier general 'Ali Ahmad al-Salim on the night of 8-9 July rushed forward. As a result, the Al-Zubayr forces managed to liberate the Halwan Mountain with its peaks 1,681, 1,638, 1,621, 1,608, 1,414, 1,412, 1,492, 1,354, and 1,366 meters.

As usual with our soldiers along the frontline with barbarism and backwardness, the soldiers of the heroic I Army Corps proved their capability of defending our

dear land and liberating the last inch of it from the enemies. They will remain loyal to great Iraq and its victorious leader, Saddam Husayn. God preserve him. They will also take revenge against the enemy for martyring our righteous men. God bless the soldiers of the heroic I Army Corps, Saqr Quraysh, and the Al-Zubayr ibn al-'Awwam forces—commanders, officers, and other ranks. God be praised for his great victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 July 1988

Communique No 3,255

JN1107164388 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Communique No. 3,255 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces are continuing their confrontation of the enemy. The results of their activities last night and today are as follows:

1. Our brave helicopter gunships flew 55 combat missions today to attack scoundrels' troop concentrations and positions. They inflicted more losses on them and returned safely to their bases, God be praised.

2. A brave force from one of our formations in the I Army Corps northern sector launched a successful raid on a number of enemy positions opposite it. With a strong offensive, the force stormed the enemy positions and clashed with the scoundrels with all types of weapons, completely destroying their positions, killing 50 enemy personnel, and seizing a number of operable weapons.

After performing its duty, the force returned to its base. Elsewhere in the sector, our units spotted several enemy troop concentrations. Our units attacked them with artillery and other weapons, inflicting heavy losses on them. They killed 150 and wounded others. The enemy was seen evacuating its casualties. They also killed 18 others, destroyed 2 machineguns, 1 tubular launcher, and 1 large vehicle in other areas of the sector. Blessed be your hands, O our brave men in the I Army Corps.

3. At 1026 [0626 GMT] today, two enemy F-5 fighter planes attempted to penetrate our international borders in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. They were confronted by the men of our ground defenses, which shot down one of them with the help of God. It was seen falling ablaze over enemy territory, while the other escaped. God bless you, O brave men of our ground defenses in the heroic III Army Corps sector.

4. One enemy personnel was killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar Forces. Two other positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Two enemy personnel were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 July 1988

Communique No 3,256

JN1207065488 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,256 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

We relied on God for the third time. And in God should the faithful (ever) put their trust. [Koranic verses]

O Great Iraqi people. O men in our valiant Armed Forces. O sons of our glorious Arab nation. It is another day which is unlike any other day. It is a day of zeal; and death defiance for the sake of principles, sanctities, land, and honor. Your zealous sons relied on God. O glorious Iraqis and honest Arabs in the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah al-Thalithah" [We rely on God a third time] operations. Their objective this time was to liberate our national soil in the (Zubaydat) area and its surroundings opposite the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan Governorate and to destroy the enemy forces there.

The men of the difficult missions, the men of the Presidential Guard Forces, were, as usual, at the head of the procession that is carrying tidings of victory, glory, and pride. They were very close to their zealous sons of the men of the heroic IV Army Corps and affiliated units. The battle began, and the columns of glory and victory advanced after the completion of the preparatory shelling of our daring artillery at 0715 [0315 GMT] today, 12 July 1988, corresponding to 27 Dhul Qi'dah 1408 Hegira. They all competed to reach their targets protected by the shouts of Allahu Akbar [God is great] and Victory is for Iraq. Allahu Akbar and glory to the Arabs. Allahu Akbar, let the voice of Islam rise high, and let the voice of charlatanism, falsehood, and delusion be defeated in its dark dens.

O glorious men, you know in advance what the results will be. It is God, the exalted, the wise, who grants us success. Until the men of the forward positions carry to us and to you the tidings of the righteous victory in accordance with its phases, we ask God, the exalted, the wise, to safeguard our zealous sons and Arab nation. Let the sleep of the cowards' mothers be disturbed. God is great, and ignominy to the defeatists.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 July 1988, corresponding to 27 Dhul Qi'dah 1408 Hegira

Communique No 3,257

JN1207135888 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1009 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,257 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O glorious Arab nation. Today, 12 July 1988, is a considerable day in your history. On this day, your sons of the Presidential Guard Forces, the IV Army Corps, and the affiliated units, with success from God recorded a great and righteous victory over the enemies of God and humanity in the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah al-Thalithah" [We rely on God a third time] operations. Truth has triumphed over falsehood, and falsehood perished, for a falsehood is bound to perish. This righteous victory resulted in the liberation of all our national soil in al-Zubaydat at 1100 [0700 GMT] today. The enemy scoundrels and those who were wounded, killed, or defeated were cursed by the curse of God and by every dust particle of our pure liberated soil.

However, those who were captured won the hospitality and loftiness of the Iraqis, which go back to 6,000 years of civilization, values, and all the good principles known throughout the history of the Arab nation and the ancestors of our grandfathers, who fill the earth with justice wherever they reside.

O Glorious Iraqis and honest Arabs, your sons have given a new example of their and your values to be compared with the evil example of the enemies of God, the Iranian rulers and their scoundrels, who kill POW's and burn them after their martyrdom. Thus, the contrast becomes clear for everyone who has a wise mind. O zealous brothers everywhere, Iraq's sons—at a time when they prove their ability in the battlefield in a manner that made the enemy lose its ability to carry out an organized confrontation and until they will put this enemy in the impasse where it led itself—will not be conceited and will not lose control toward the principles of peace which we have announced from the very beginning of the war and reiterated on later occasions.

However, at the same time, we will continue to deal fatal blows to enemy forces, interests, and resources that help it continue its aggression so long as the war continues and the enemy rejects peace, continues to exist on any part of our national soil, or attempts to occupy any part of it. The enemy has no choice other than the unconditional and complete withdrawal from what has remained occupied of our national soil and as soon as possible, the complete and comprehensive exchange of POW's, the stopping of hindering Iraq and its means to fully benefit from the waters of Shatt al-'Arab and the Arabian Gulf in a natural and secured way in accordance with Iraq's rights and international law, positive and responsible behavior toward the security of the Arabian Gulf and its states, achievement of a peace agreement and good neighborliness, and noninterference in domestic affairs so the region's states and peoples can live in peace and security, including the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, who must be able to opt for their own way of life without harming others.

These principles, and not maneuvers and attempts to circumvent UN Security Council Resolution No 598, constitute the sole, legitimate means to end the conflict. The Iranian rulers must learn a lesson before it is too late. God is great, and ignominy to the defeatists.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 July 1988, corresponding to 27 Dhul Qi'dah 1408 Hegira

Saddam Returns to Baghdad

JN1207154788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1512 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has returned to Baghdad after his command and field supervision of the "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah al-Thalithah" [We rely on God a third time] operations, carrying with him the news of the clear victory to all Iraqis regarding the liberation of our national soil in the Al-Zubaydat area and its environs east of Maysan.

During his supervision of the battle, his excellency the president was accompanied by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallh, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Brigadier General Husayn Kamil, director of the Military Industries Organization and acting industry and minerals minister; and 'Uday and Qusay, the president's two sons.

His excellency the president had earlier held several meetings with the members of the Armed Forces General Command and field commanders, during which he studied with them factors affecting the battle in accordance with the set plan, which enabled the sons of our Armed forces, the lions of the Presidential Guard force and the heroes of the IV Army Corps, to achieve on this immortal day our great victory, the manifestation of which was the complete liberation of our national soil in the Al-Zubaydat area from the desecration of the scoundrel Khomeyniites and their henchmen, the enemies of God and mankind.

Further Reportage on UK-Saudi Tornado Deal

Cabinet Discusses Sale

TA1007115388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports details on the Cabinet meeting:

Three subjects were discussed in the political part of the Cabinet meeting. First, there was a review of the war in the Persian Gulf. The ministers learned from reports by various security sources that Iran's strength in this struggle is diminishing and that Iraq is gaining the upper hand. At this stage, nobody is going out on a limb and estimating how long the war will yet last.

Another issue was the sale of Tornado aircraft to Saudi Arabia as part of the huge arms deal with Britain. Minister 'Ezer Weizman called the Tornado a flying piano. Minister Moshe Arens said that the Tornado is the best low-flying aircraft in the world. Minister Arens called for reviving the Lavi production line. Here are the Saudis arming themselves, and we need our own Lavi, Arens said. Minister Weizman asked if everything possible had been done to foil the deal. It might have been preferable for the Saudi Army to equip itself with American equipment, Weizman said.

The defense minister said this was the completion of a deal which was begun early in the year. He said Israel now has to concentrate on what this deal produces.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1030 GMT on 10 July adds the following on the Cabinet debate: "The Cabinet approved emergency regulations which enable the Israeli police to set up stakeouts for limited periods in the yards of private homes as part of its effort to prevent disturbances. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that during the Cabinet meeting the prime minister refused to answer the questions of ministers on the contents of the political message presented by the Romanian emissary."]

Greater Threat Than Missiles

TA1007115588 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Jul 88 pp 1, 13

[Report by London correspondent Yohanan Lahav, Dani Sade, 'Uzi Mahanaymi, Gad Li'or, and New York correspondent Tzadoq Yehezqeli]

[Excerpts] "The Tornado aircraft that will be supplied to Saudi Arabia poses a serious threat to Israel, more serious than that posed by the surface-to-surface missiles. But we have a solution for them," a senior Israeli Air Force officer stated yesterday. He was reacting to reports about the huge $30-billion arms deal struck between Saudi Arabia and Britain for the purchase of advanced weapons, including Tornado airplanes.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT was told last night by the Prime Minister's Office that "Israel has opposed and will continue to oppose any arms sales to the Arab countries as long as they remain in a state of war with Israel. A serious view should be taken of the present British-Saudi deal, particularly in view of the fact that Britain has not lifted the embargo on the sale of arms and oil to us." [passage omitted]

Commenting on the Tornado, an Israeli Air Force officer said, "This is a jet fighter designed for ground attacks. It is outfitted with the best equipment in the world to operate in rough weather conditions, and at night in particular. As far as we know, this plane does not exactly suit the mission of the Saudi Air Force, but the Saudis do not buy what suits them. It has a good payload capacity, excellent navigational accuracy, and is fitted with automatic systems for flights at low altitude, high speeds, and long distances."

Compared to the surface-to-surface missiles, the senior officer said, "they pose a far more serious threat. If such an airplane penetrated our territory it could cause far more serious damage than all their missiles. Unlike the surface-to-surface missiles—about which there is nothing we can do once they have been fired, at least not at this stage—we do have the ability to stop it.

"It is also clear to us that some of these aircraft could eventually wind up in Jordan. Jordan purchased such aircraft not too long ago with Saudi financing."

The officer noted that one of the most worrisome aspects of the deal is that it is a package deal in which the Saudis are also buying Western know-how. "Saudi pilots are not the best in the world, but they are learning. They have British and American instructors who are paid very high wages to go to Saudi Arabia and teach them all the Western combat doctrines."

As far as Israel is concerned, the deal poses far more of a threat than the missiles because the British do not impose any limitations on the use of the weapons that Saudi Arabia is entitled to deploy against Israel. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Discusses 'Protest'

TA1107160188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Telephone interview with Yehuda Avner, ambassador to the United Kingdom, by moderators Dan Shilon and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, sir.

[Avner] Good evening.

[Shilon] We hear that today you submitted an unofficial protest to the British Government over the arms deal with Saudi Arabia. The question is whether this deal of the century does not merit an official protest. Why unofficial?

[Avner] I would not define the talk I had today with Sir Patrick Wright, permanent under secretary of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as a protest.

[Shilon] Not even a protest?

[Avner] It was not a protest.

[Dan] Why not?

[Avner] It was a matter-of-fact and very frank conversation, during which I also learned a few things which I am now putting down in a cable to be sent home. Our conversation ended only a short time ago, you caught me just as I was preparing that cable.

[Shilon] If the talk was so matter-of-fact, sir, then perhaps you were able to avert the deal?

[Avner, laughing] I do not live under such delusions. I went to meet him so as to express our views on the matter. I went into some details, but I do not think that a telephone conversation with the IDF Radio is the place to reveal those details.

[Dan] Ambassador Avner, would it not have been appropriate to submit a protest? Is this not the official Israeli stand?

[Avner] In matters of this kind, I am directed by instructions I receive from home. There they have a more comprehensive picture of the situation. I received [words indistinct] instructions, upon which I had a great deal to say. You know, there is a certain code in diplomatic circles which allows us to express our government's vehement protest without terming it as such.

[Shilon] Can you tell us then what it was that you tried to achieve in the meeting? Were you trying to obtain a cancellation of the deal? Or perhaps a modification of the deal? What were you trying to achieve and did you succeed?

[Avner] What I attempted in that meeting was to express our stand to make the top echelons aware of that stand. We must not forget that the deal is not an actual contract yet; that is still to be done. We wished to express our opinion on this matter, and on others.

[Shilon] Ambassador Yehuda Avner, thank you very much.

No Way 'To Interrupt' Deal

TA1207050288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir has made it clear that Israel will do everything possible to ensure that Israeli security will not be harmed by the mammoth British arms sales deal with Saudi Arabia. He was interviewed by reporter Steve Rodan:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I do not see any way to interrupt this deal; it depends on the governments involved in it. But we from our side, as in the past, have to take all means possible in order to be ready and vigilant in any situation.

[Rodan] Do you have any assessment why the deal was carried out now, after all? Countries like Saudi Arabia are in economic difficulty. Why this massive deal?

[Shamir] Well, they may have some economic difficulties, but they have still enough money to buy such quantities of arms. Well, I don't know exactly their aspirations, but it is their aim to equip themselves with huge quantities of sophisticated arms. Maybe it is against a threat from other parts of the Middle East, but anyhow, we have to take all necessary means to defend ourselves. [end recording]

Shamir Cited on Order, Settlement in Territories

TA1107193688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today promised the leaders of Gush 'Ezyon settlers that legal proceedings will be adopted to cope with the actions of Arabs in the territories.

The prime minister told the settlers that following the elections anything that had not been done in the territories over the last 4 years, as far as settlement is concerned, will be completed. He said that the United States supports establishing order in the territories, adding that he does not accept remarks by the senior Central Command officer to the effect that the intifada [uprising] will last for years.

Prime Minister Shamir Denies Annexation Plans

TA1207104088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by ITIM]

[Text] "The word annexation is not part of our vocabulary. We are bound by the Camp David accords," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said yesterday in reply to a reporter's question as to whether the Likud will annex Gush 'Ezyon if it forms the next government. Shilo Gal, the chairman of the Gush 'Ezyon local council, said in response that the fact the prime minister has said that the word annexation is not in his vocabulary means that

only two other alternatives are left: a perpetuation of the status quo or Arab rule, and this serves as a warning to the Judaea and Samaria settlers.

The prime minister made these remarks during a tour of Kefar 'Ezyon and environs yesterday afternoon.

Civilian Administrator on W. Bank Developments

TA1107183088 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Interview with Brigadier General Yehoshu'a 'Erez, the head of the Judaea and Samaria Civilian Administration, by unidentified correspondent on 11 July; place not given—videotaped in Hebrew, with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] ['Erez] We take a grave view of the matter; we will not let disturbances in Judaea and Samaria schools go unnoticed. We will examine developments in a practical manner. It is still too early to speak of our next decisions, but we definitely take a grave view of this.

[Correspondent] Is it possible that you will close down schools, and that students will actually lose the school year?

['Erez] Anything is possible.

[Correspondent] Five days ago, when the schools were closed down, you said that if disturbances continue after they reopen, the students will lose the school year.

['Eretz] I am not excluding the possibility that some of the students will indeed lose the school year if they keep up this conduct.

[Correspondent] Brigadier General 'Erez, there have been press reports of the dismissal of about 1,000 Arab workers in the Civilian Administration. Can you confirm this?

['Erez] We are facing dismissals in the Civilian Administration. These dismissals are initiated by us due to budgetary difficulties. I do not know whether this will comprise as many as 1,000 workers. This process will yet be examined, it will be in accordance with the law, and it will be gradual. Compensation will be guaranteed for those dismissed. We are not doing this in order to settle accounts, nor do we want to worsen living conditions. We are doing this due to budgetary problems, and we will try to harm the local population as little as possible.

[Correspondent] What aspects of life are you referring to?

['Erez] My reference is to education, health, agriculture, and other spheres.

[Correspondent] Will that actually involve about 1,000 people?

['Erez] This is not a closed question, but we may reach the 1,000 figure.

[Correspondent] Brig Gen 'Erez, last Thursday you conducted a large and intensive tax collection operation in the village of Bayt Sahur. This has increased the dissatisfaction of residents in this village, which is still under curfew. What is your attitude toward that operation?

['Erez] We have conducted, and will continue to conduct, tax collection operations in order to be able to continue to give services to the population. We will continue to collect taxes at Bayt Sahur. Any Bayt Sahur resident who owes taxes will pay them. We will not let go of this issue until the public understands this is part of normal life and has nothing to do with punishment or settling accounts.

[Correspondent] Brig Gen 'Erez, could you tell us what was the main reason for the rioting of Bayt Sahur residents that day?

['Erez] For a long time now Bayt Sahur has tried to be independent. We have the phenomenon of local committees in the entire region, but it is emphasized more at Bayt Sahur. We were aware of this and handled matters. We handled the people involved, and will continue to handle those involved in the local committees. An attempt was made to disrupt the tax collection process at Bayt Sahur, with the help of the local committees, and some of the people involved were and will be detained. We will not let this matter go unnoticed.

[Correspondent] In other words, may one say that you managed to break down the local committees at the Bayt Sahur area?

['Erez] I would not use the term breaking down, but we surely handled and will handle matters, and whoever tries to disrupt public order and violate the law will be penalized.

Police Budget Supplemented Due to Uprising

TA1107080988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The Israeli police have received a supplementary budget of 8 million shekels in recent months to cover expenses accrued from dealing with the intifada [uprising]. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Police Affairs Ministry and the Treasury will work out procedures for dealing with ongoing police demands for supplementary budgets because of the uprising.

Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe said the defense establishment is trying to strengthen the police in the territories financially and in other ways. There is talk of calling up former policemen and officers for reserve duty in the territories.

Treasury Resists Fully Supplementing IDF Budget

TA1107125888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The dispute between the Treasury and the Defense Ministry regarding an additional budget of 270 million shekels, prompted by the events in the territories, continues. Our correspondent reports that the Defense Ministry has requested an addition of approximately 270 million shekels, following the increased IDF activity in the territories, while the Treasury is willing to add the sum of 100 million shekels.

Police Recruit Arab Citizens for Territories

TA1107173888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The Israeli police have decided to recruit Arab citizens of Israel for service in the territories. They are to replace the local Arab policemen who resigned. The decision includes Arabs who have not served in the IDF. This is a shift in police policy, which has so far restricted the right to serve in the police to Israeli citizens who have served in the IDF. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there are so far some 70 potential recruits. It appears that recruits who serve 3 years on the police force will be credited with full service in the IDF, thus gaining the accompanying privileges.

Cabinet Approves 'Civilianization' of Settlement

TA1107064688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] The Cabinet today approved the civilianization of the Nahal outpost of Shema' in the southern part of the Hebron Hills, near the Arab village of Samo'a. It will become one of the six Judaea and Samaria settlements approved by the national unity government at its foundation. Shema' will replace the settlement of 'Asa'el which had been planned for the area, but did not materialize because the settlement authorities encountered difficulties in getting permits for the land.

Unrest Incidents Said Unreported; IDF Denies

TA1107194588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Uri Ari'el, the secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, said today that settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are considering the possibility of setting up their own news agency. Such an agency, he said, will publish incidents in the territories without the conspiracy of silence which is practised today, according to him, covering up many incidents which are not reported.

The unreported incidents are mainly those that involve harm to property and vehicles. The car of Minister Pat was stoned today. The stone was thrown at his car when the minister was traveling through the center of Nabulus in the course of a tour of Samaria. [passage omitted]

In reaction, the IDF spokesman announced that the territories are open to media coverage, and that the IDF spokesman gives an orderly, regular report on incidents in the territories. Army sources told our correspondent that every incident is reported to Cabinet decisionmakers. Information is passed to the media with regard to grave incidents, while information on other incidents is given only in reply to the questions of journalists.

'Shock Committees' in Territories Concern IDF

TA0807131088 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Local leaderships are gradually taking over every town, village, and refugee camp in the West Bank that is controlled by PLO leaders outside the territories. These leaderships have earned the nickname of "shock committees," and their job is to deal with the local population, see that the orders issued in the leaflets are implemented, and stage attacks on Israeli targets. The "shock committees" are so widespread that in Nabulus every street has its own supervisor who is in charge of dealing with strikebreakers, collaborators, businessmen who open their shops, and so on.

The IDF is worried about these new leaderships and is taking measures to deal with them. "Popular committees exist, and they are in the process of gaining prominence and expanding. These people have been the operational hard core of the uprising," a senior and authoritative military source stated yesterday in a briefing to military reporters. Replying to a question as to why the IDF does not arrest the heads of those committees, the officer said: "We do not want to have more detainees than inhabitants."

According to the senior officer, the IDF suspects that throughout the intifada [uprising] there has been pressure from the Palestinian organizations outside the territories to carry out attacks on Israeli targets with firearms. According to him, however, the leaders of the Unified National Command of the Uprising realize it would be a mistake to use firearms, and they believe the intifada should be pursued with the same means used so far in order not to lose international support and to make the argument within Israel more acute.

"They have enough weapons to make our lives miserable, but not enough to step up the violence to the point where they could defend the villages, stopping us from entering them," the senior officer said. He added: "I suppose we will come across new phenomena. All of us will have to be more patient and have the psychological strength to endure them."

The senior officer from the Central Command said that the IDF's reaction of imposing economic pressure has proved successful. "We have imposed economic sanctions on several villages knowing that this is the agricultural season. The demolition of houses also is a deterrent factor, and we know

that for a fact. For example, an entire terrorist squad was uncovered after a relative turned it in so that we would not demolish his house when we uncovered the squad. Having said that, I do not suggest that we increase the incidence of house demolitions; it would be hard for the Army to deal with that. I say this is an effective measure, but at the same time, I have reservations about it. It would be wrong to make house demolitions more widespread. We will continue with the policy of deportations, which is very selective. I do not think, however, that it should be expanded, and I do not really see that we can expand the use of deportations beyond these selective criteria," the senior officer noted.

He went on to talk about "wanted men" in the territories who willingly turn themselves in to the security forces, and about the great success scored by the Shin Bet when it captured a ring of firebomb throwers.

Replying to a question about the incidence of "irregular behavior" by soldiers, he said: "I do not share the assessment that there is a new wave of such incidents or that they have become more serious. This phenomenon has always existed and the question is how do we deal with it. Difficult situations are created when an army operates as a military government, and we are doing our best to deal with this problem."

Referring to the Jordanians and the extent of their support of the territories, the senior officer said that the uprising had impaired Jordan's status in the territories and noted that the inhabitants feel the Jordanians left them in the lurch, not helping them in their most difficult hours. He mentioned two schools of thought within the Jordanian Government: one favoring dissociation from the territories and the other favoring a rehabilitation of the monarchy's status in the West Bank.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Youth Killed by IDF

TA1107122388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] A 17-year-old youth was killed today by IDF gunfire in the village of 'Anabta, on the Nablus-Tulkarm road. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that mass demonstrations were staged today in the village during which dozens of residents attacked an IDF patrol. When the soldiers felt their lives were in danger, they opened fire.

Youth Killed in Nabulus

TA1107202288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] A 16-year-old youth was killed and nine people were wounded in Nabulus today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in Nabulus this afternoon a funeral was conducted for a man who had died of natural causes. A rumor was spread, however, that the man was killed by IDF gunfire, and riots ensued. Following the riots, the local hospital reported one dead and nine wounded by gunfire. Military sources told our correspondent that they are examining the cause of death, but that the body was not found. The dead youth, Faris 'Anabtawi, had been wanted by the security forces.

A curfew was imposed this afternoon on the village of 'Anabta where another youth was killed in the course of a riot this morning.

Curfew on Parts of Nabulus

TA1207081588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The security forces have clamped a curfew on the western neighborhoods of Nabulus following last night's violent riots. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that 1 youth was killed and at least 12 people were injured during the riots. Curfews remain in effect in Bayt Sahur, 'Anabta, and the refugee camps of Al-Jalazun near Ramallah and Ayda near Bethlehem.

2 Injured by IDF Gunfire

TA1207091788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Two Arabs were slightly injured by IDF gunfire as soldiers were imposing a curfew in Nabulus this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that riots resumed in the city at daybreak today, following last night's violent disturbances. The military government clamped a curfew on the western neighborhoods of Nabulus.

8 Detained for Stoning Buses

TA1107122788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Three East Jerusalem buses were stoned this afternoon. No one was hurt. Some of the windshields of these buses were shattered.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the police have detained two residents suspected of throwing stones at Bus No 23 in the vicinity of the Justice Ministry. Some of the windows of the bus had been shattered.

The police have detained for questioning six schoolgirls suspected of throwing stones at Bus No 25 near the Neve Ya'aqov junction. The front windshield had been shattered.

An empty bottle was thrown at Bus No 27 in Sultan Sulayman Street, shattering one of the windshields.

6 Schools Reclosed

TA1107173188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria today closed down six schools whose students were involved in riots. Four of the closed schools are in Tulkarm, one in Qalqilyah, and one in Ramallah. The schools will stay closed until the end of the academic year.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that studies had resumed this morning following the end of a week's closure imposed by the Civilian Administration. The administration has pointed out that it will not permit disturbances, and that a school whose students are involved in riots, will be closed.

8 Uprising Leaders Arrested

TA1207051788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Report by correspondent in the territories Arye Gus]

[Excerpt] Aided by the curfew which has been in effect since the end of last week, the security forces arrested eight public figures from the town of Bayt Sahur, near Bethlehem, who will apparently be placed under administrative detention.

The eight are members of the popular committee operating in the town under the aegis of the leaders of the uprising. The security forces charge them with active involvement in the riots that took place in the town when the Civilian Administration arrived to collect taxes. As may be recalled, over 200 inhabitants handed in their identity cards to the municipality to protest the confiscation of documents from inhabitants who refused to pay taxes.

The arrest of the eight reflects the Civilian Administration's efforts to disband the popular committees which have been set up in most Arab locations. These committees are trying, often successfully, to become the dominant local factor and replace existing establishments, such as the municipalities and chambers of commerce which are recognized by the Civilian Administration. In many cases, the members of these committees are responsible for riots and subversive activities. [passage omitted]

Firebombing in E. Jerusalem

TA1207062088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Early this morning, a firebomb was thrown at a vegetable shop in 'Isawiyah in northeast Jerusalem. There were no casualties and only slight damage was caused. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that stones were thrown at a bus driving near 'Atarot this morning, shattering one of its windows.

Stone Thrower Sentenced, Fined

TA1207095988 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Jul 88 p 16

[Report by Oren Kohen, Oron Me'iri, Shim'on Elqabetz, Mikhal Qedem, and Buqi Na'e]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Beersheba District Court yesterday sentenced 18-year-old Muhammad Abu Gudam of the Abu Rabi'a Bedouin tribe to 8 months in prison, gave him a 15-month suspended sentence, and fined him 200 shekels. Abu Gudam was convicted of throwing stones at cars driving through the Tel 'Arad intersection last January.

IDF Denies Reported Expansion of Security Zone

TA1107163888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, the South Lebanese Army commander, declared last week that the security zone in southern Lebanon will soon be expanded. The declaration was extensively covered by the Beirut newspapers. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that security elements in the north expressed surprise at Lahd's declaration, saying that the security zone in its present form is sufficient for Israel's defense requirements.

Rabin Cancels Avionic Lavi Project Funding

TA1107193288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The defense minister has decided to cancel the continued financing of the avionic Lavi plane, termed Lavi B-3. Our Army affairs correspondent reports that Minister Rabin accepted the Air Force's proposal for using the funds involved for alternative projects instead of passing them on to finance the avionic Lavi. The projects referred to are, among other things, upgrading Kfir planes, F-15's, and helicopters. Our correspondent says this means that if Israeli Aircraft Industries [IAI] wants to continue to finance the avionic Lavi project, they will have to do it out of the IAI budget and not out of the IDF budget.

IDF General Cited on Syrian Missile Threat

TA0907200288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The IDF is prepared for the possibility that the Syrians will bolster their missile network, but at present there is no real threat to the IDF's emergency deployment as long as the Syrian missiles are not armed with chemical warheads. Major General Menahem Eynan, IDF quartermaster general, made these remarks in an interview with our military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky.

[Begin recording] [Shlonsky] Maj Gen Eynan, in your job you are also responsible for the call-up of the reserves and the transfer of forces to the war fronts. Recently

there has been a lot of talk about a missile attack. What would happen if there were a missile attack on mobilization centers for the reserves and on the transfer of troops to the war fronts?

[Eynan] First, the issue of missile deployment is not new. I would like to remind you that the Scuds, Frogs, and SS-21's, have already been deployed for some time, and we are prepared and trained to mobilize the IDF, if required, as well and to be deployed quickly to meet any event that might occur on the war front. Such activities have taken place in the past. They have now been upgraded and I believe we are prepared, as long as the fighting is with conventional means.

[Shlonsky] Do you expect an offensive using missiles on mobilization centers as a surprise attack, at the start of a war?

[Eynan] In our deployment lineup we are prepared for catastrophic situations of various types. This is one of them. I believe that the missiles, in their present quantities, are not a real threat to the IDF's mobilization lineup and the emergency warehouses, as long as the existing missiles do not have chemical warheads.

[Shlonsky] What about if they are equipped with chemical warheads?

[Eynan] If they do arm them with chemical warheads, I believe the question of deterrence and the activities between countries in that area is much more the real issue rather than how the emergency warehouses will cope or the issue of mobilization of forces. I believe that anyone initiating chemical warfare would be making a quantum leap. I believe that the decisions that will have to be made will not be merely about how to mobilize, but what sort of war will take place.

[Shlonsky] You recalled previously that the missiles are not new, but still something has happened in recent months in the Middle East as reflected by the concern shown by all the countries in the West about this subject.

[Eynan] I would answer that in two ways. There are many answers, but I will give you two. First, the missiles have become more and more pocket [kis] artillery for Arab leaders in the Middle East as an answer to their clear-cut weakness in the face of the IDF's blatant air superiority. This is linked to what they regard as closing the deterrence gap in strategic parity.

[Shlonsky] Could it therefore be possible that they will use it more than in the past?

[Eynan] I suppose that if you purchase missiles and you possibly become involved in a war, you certainly expect to use them. With regard to the second part—which I have not answered—I hope very much that the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war and Syria's present capability will not bring the Syrian leadership to use these missiles with chemical warheads. [passage omitted]

MK Watad Leaves MAPAM, Joins HADASH

TA1107085088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
11 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Text] Jatt—MK [Knesset member] Muhammad Watad yesterday announced that he was breaking away from MAPAM, after being a member for 30 years, and joining the Communist-backed Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (HADASH).

He insisted, however, that he would not run again for the Knesset on the HADASH list or any other.

"If I were to be asked by members of HADASH to run on their list, I would be greatly honoured but I would have to refuse. I have been a member of the Knesset for seven years, the past three of which were wasted," Watad told THE JERUSALEM POST last night.

He maintained that his decision was due to ideological differences with MAPAM which had intensified during the past three years.

"I am sorry to say that I saw no hope of achieving a real partnership in MAPAM, or of any change in its political attitude towards the Palestinians in general and the PLO in particular," he said.

Similarly, MAPAM had made no changes to ensure full equality for Israeli Arabs. There had been only slogans, he said.

Tabah Compromise Talks 'Hopelessly Bogged Down'

TA1007062088 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jul 88 p 2

[The diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Efforts to achieve a compromise solution to the Tabah dispute appear to be hopelessly bogged down, with officials in both the Egyptian and Israeli Governments resigned to the resolution of the conflict by the international arbitrators.

Egypt appears to have hardened its position concerning a possible compromise because of what it perceives as a certain victory of the arbitrators' award.

Israel, meanwhile, has refused to negotiate a compromise based on the premise that sovereignty over the disputed area would be returned to Egypt.

The arbitrators' decision is expected to be handed down on September 1, to be followed by bilateral negotiations on its implementation.

American officials have expressed concern that Israel would drag its feet in implementing the decision, a move which could have a disastrous effect on already strained Israeli-Egyptian relations.

Protocol Vote Postponed at Request of 'Friends'
TA0607102988 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Text] Foreign Ministry sources said yesterday in Jerusalem that the ratification of the three Israeli protocols in the European Parliament was postponed at the request of Israel's friends.

Foreign Ministry officials wished to tone down the disappointment caused by the fact that the vote has been postponed until September. It was emphasized that Israel's friends believe the chances for success in September are better because numerous delegates will return from their vacations at that time.

Our correspondent notes that the ratification of the protocols would have granted Israeli agriculture several significant customs privileges in EEC markets. Political circles in Jerusalem stressed yesterday that the ado around the archaeological excavations in Via Dolorosa has not helped the Israeli cause.

Paper Blames Gulf War for Airliner Incident
TA0807153488 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 7 Jul 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Disaster and the Settlement"]

[Text] The disaster caused by the crime of U.S. missiles being fired at an Iranian civil airliner over the Gulf is still evoking international reaction. This disaster led to the death of all the plane's passengers, including children, old people, and women, who were not involved at all in the crazy war between Iraq and Iran, which has been going on for 8 years.

The primary responsibility for this crime appears to fall on the U.S. Navy deployed in the Gulf, but the war that attracted this Navy, combining it with the aggressive U.S. interests in the region, is actually responsible for all the crimes, disasters, and calamities that have not ceased for 1 minute since its outbreak in 1980.

Only the cessation of this war will drive out all the navies that are competing for control of the Gulf and its oil without taking the interests of the Gulf's nations into consideration. Iraq was the first to call for a peaceful settlement of the dispute with Iran. At the height of the war, Iraq contacted all parties in the world in a bid to end the war and implement the UN Security Council resolution on a political settlement.

Iran's rulers, however, who were deluded by their ability to occupy some Iraqi territory, turned down all peaceful invitations and insisted on continuing the crazy war in a bid to impose a fait accompli on Iraq, all the Arab nations, and the entire world.

Iraq succeeded in liberating its territory in a limited period of time, but parallel with this it continued to seek a political settlement by means of the United Nations. As is their custom though, Iran's rulers closed their eyes and ears to the peace tendencies and continued their repugnant aggression, which is slaughtering scores of thousands of citizens of the two Islamic countries, Iran and Iraq.

Now that the significance of the serious call for a political solution of the Gulf war has become obvious by the recovery of the corpses of hundreds of innocent passengers of the Iranian civil airliner downed by missiles of the aggressive U.S. Navy, Iran's rulers must move toward this solution. Only such a solution can drive out this Navy and other invading navies from the Gulf region.

Otherwise, both Iran and Iraq, as well as all the region's states and peoples, will face further numerous calamities and disasters so long as Iran's rulers do not realize that an honorable political settlement is the only way to find peace and to prevent the United States and other great powers from playing bloody games with the peoples of the Gulf and the whole Middle East.

Syrian Regime Assailed for Destruction of Camps
TA0807175788 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 8 Jul 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Continuing Crime"]

[Text] Day after day, shell after shell, and one Palestinian victim after another, the scope of the Syrian conspiracy against the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is becoming apparent through the criminal insistence to uproot the refugee camps in Beirut and then move on immediately to the other camps in north and south Lebanon, so that at the end of this bloodshed Hafiz al-Asad's regime will be able to carry out the entire U.S. scheme on Lebanon's soil and over the ruins and wreckage of the refugee camps.

As observers everywhere have noted and witnessed, the PLO has been eager to maintain its relations with the Syrian regime, even though at a low level. The PLO was eager as well to stop the bloodshed and prevent the destruction of the Burj al-Barajinah refugee camp, even after the defector Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], backed by Syrian forces, had demolished the last roof in

the Shatila camp. The Syrian regime, however, insisted on continuing the crime, moving on from Shatila's ruins to shelling Burj al-Barajinah.

Sources not involved in the fighting pointed out the overt participation, this time, of Syrian tanks and artillery in the shelling of this Palestinian camp at a time when the Algerian and Libyan delegations gave up their efforts to effect a reconciliation between the two sides because of their last minute conviction that the Syrian regime was immersed in a new conspiracy to destroy the remaining Palestinian camps and implement the U.S. scheme. This scheme seeks on one hand to pave the way, even with Palestinian corpses, for the sham Lebanese presidential elections at the end of this month, and on the other hand to wear out the PLO both inside and outside Lebanon.

It is amazing that the Syrian regime continues to raise the slogan of the uprising in the occupied territories at a time when all observers are aware that the mortars and tanks which destroyed Shatila, and are now continuing their shelling of Burj al-Barajinah, are the most repugnant hostile forces seeking to stab the uprising in the back and undermine it. These forces were supposed to stand by the uprising and be a strong supporter of it.

For the umpteenth time, what will the Arab states do in this connection? Will we face another conspiracy of silence? And is it reasonable for the Arab nations to stand idly by and drown in the silence while we heard them everywhere chanting for and supporting the uprising?

We ask all the Arab peoples to stand by our camps in Lebanon, and call upon our Arab states to implement, at the minimal and simplest level, the resolutions to which they committed themselves at the Algiers summit.

Reportage on Official Visit by Rajiv Gandhi

Arrives 11 Jul

JN1107093388 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs Sonia Gandhi arrived in Amman this morning on a 3-day official visit to Jordan. During the visit, Rajiv Gandhi will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. He will also hold talks with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and senior Jordanian officials.

The Gandhis were accorded an official reception at Amman airport. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and his wife led those who received them. [passage omitted]

Received by King, Queen

JN1107113988 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Excerpt] At noon today, His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur received the Indian Prime Minister and Mrs Gandhi at Al-Nadwah Palace. They welcomed the Gandhis' visit to Jordan which should further advance the distinguished friendly ties between the two countries.

Earlier today Rajiv Gandhi, accompanied by His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, head of the mission of honor escorting the Indian prime minister, called at the martyr monument. [passage omitted]

Delegations Hold Talks

JN1107190788 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The Indian delegation headed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Jordanian delegation headed by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i held a meeting this evening at the prime ministry.

At the beginning of the meeting, Al-Rifa'i welcomed Mr Gandhi, the guest and great friend of His Majesty King Husayn. He praised the friendly relations between Jordan and India. The great Indian guest replied by expressing gratitude for the welcome accorded to him and his wife by Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur. He also thanked His Royal Highness Prince Hasan and the prime minister. He expressed his deep satisfaction to be visiting Jordan.

The Jordanian and Indian sides reviewed their positions on issues of the region and the world. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i reviewed the Jordanian stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict and His Majesty King Husayn's constant efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace to this conflict. He explained the Jordanian political constants declared by His Majesty King Husayn during the recent Arab summit in Algiers.

Mr al-Rifa'i also reviewed the sufferings of the Palestinian Arab people under Israeli occupation and explained the dimensions of the popular uprising of this people, 21 years after the occupation, to attain their national rights and liberate their land. He pointed out Jordan's constant and firm support for the struggle of the Palestinian people.

The prime minister explained Israel's positions and the obstacles it places in front of the peace process, the convening of the international conference, and the achievement of a lasting and comprehensive peace.

The prime minister also explained Jordan's attitude to the Iraq-Iran war. He pointed out Iraq's positive approach of wanting an end to this war and of having accepted [UN] Resolution No 598. He urged the continuation of international efforts to convince Iran to accept the resolution and stop the war, which endangers the region's peace and security.

Rajiv Gandhi, Jordan's great guest, stressed India's support for the Jordanian and Arab position on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also stressed his country's support for Resolution No 598 on the Iraq-Iran war, expressing India's hope that the war will be ended.

The two sides reviewed a number of international issues pertinent to the situation in Afghanistan, nuclear disarmament, the substantial changes in the international arena and in relations between nations, and the desire for a stronger international order through strengthening the United Nations and international institutions.

The two sides discussed in detail the relations between the two friendly countries, relations which have developed in numerous fields, especially since the visits by His majesty King Husayn and His Royal Highness Prince Hasan to India. The two sides reviewed the movement of cooperation between the two countries, which is for increasing trade exchange and redressing the balance of this exchange through India's implementing certain projects in Jordan, especially in the field of road construction. Indian firms are already involved in such projects.

The two sides reviewed studies to implement other projects in the interest of expanding industrial and trade exchange between the two countries. Both sides agreed to revive the joint cooperation committee and on the need to convene this committee regularly. They agreed to hold a seminar on trade cooperation through the visit of an Indian private sector delegation to Jordan in September. They agreed to hold an exhibition of Indian products in Amman. The two sides agreed to increase prospects of cooperation in the cultural, education, and scientific fields. They discussed facilities for Indian and Royal Jordanian flights between the two countries.

On the Indian side, the meeting was attended by ministers of foreign affairs and trade, Gandhi's companions, and the Indian ambassador in Amman. On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by His Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zayd, head of the escort mission and chief chamberlain; Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister; Tahir al-Masri, the foreign minister; Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, minister of information; Dr Nasir al-Din al-Asad, minister of higher education; Dr Tahir Kan'an, minister of planning; Shafiq al-Zawyidah, minister of public works and housing; Hamdi al-Tabba', minister of industry, trade, and supply; Fayiz al-Tarawinah, minister of state; the Jordanian ambassador in New Delhi; and directors of the Royal Jordanian and the phosphates and potash companies.

Gandhi Gives TV Interview

JN1107201188 Amman Television Service in English 1905 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Interview with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by correspondent Samar Dahmash in Amman on 11 July—recorded]

[Text] [Dahmash] Mr Prime Minister, allow me to welcome you to Jordan. Our viewers know you through the international media, and this is, I guess, the first time we meet with you through our own media. So, welcome to Jordan. The first question is going to take us to the Gulf war. It's been raging for the past 8 years between two members of the Nonaligned Movement, and India is a leading member of the Nonaligned Movement. So, do you have anything that can solve this problem and end the war?

[Gandhi] Thank you for welcoming me. I have been looking forward to coming to Jordan for some time. Well, it's really wonderful to be here, and I have been very touched by the warmth of the welcome that I have received. I'd like to thank his majesty, her majesty, and the people of Jordan.

On the question of the Gulf war, it is, it's a very difficult problem. A lot of people have tried to do something about it. But we feel that the solution really lies very much in the proposals that the United Nations has put forward. Resolution 598 must be the basis, and we must work from there. All countries that can influence the two involved countries must do so, and we feel that it's equally important that foreign presences are removed becuase they only increased the tension and cause, well, increased the problems.

[Dahmash] The other problem that is raging in the Middle East is the Middle East conflict. Do you have anything, any new ideas to solve this problem?

[Gandhi] Well, the solution really is in a conference on West Asia, and the conference must have all the parties concerned involved, and it should have some authority, so that whatever comes up in the conference is implemented. We don't see another type of solution, and we feel that it is necessary that all those who are involved do put pressure to see that the conference comes about.

[Dahmash] The accord on Afghanistan eased the tension between East and West, and it is known that Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn had played a major role in bringing this accord into effect. How do you assess this role, his majesty's role?

[Gandhi] Well, in all such problems, there are a lot of intricacies and complications that are not visible on the surface, and even when solutions seem close, suddenly you find that there are gaps, and we believe that Jordan has played, well, Jordan, His Majesty King Husayn has played a very positive role in bringing this about, and from our point of view, it has reduced tensions in an area very close to us.

[Dahmash] India and Jordan occupy very strategic positions, one in mid-South Asia, and the other on the western rim of Asia. How can the two countries set an example for the world for cooperation between the two regions?

[Gandhi] Well, we have a very old relationship, going back into history. Unfortunately, that link got broken, and relationships in recent years have not been as strong as they could have been. After his majesty's visit to India, a couple of years ago, we have started building, and I hope that with my visit to Jordan, which is the first visit of an Indian prime minister, we will give new direction to, well, working together. We had very good talks today both with his majesty and with the official delegations, and we believe that we can work together in many areas. We have already looked at some steps that we can take. We will be going ahead very rapidy.

[Dahmash] Thank you very much.

[Gandhi] Thank you.

King Husayn Dinner Speech

JN1107202688 Amman Television Service in English 1925 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Speech by King Husayn at banquet in Amman in honor of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 11 July—recorded]

[Text] Your Excellency, Mrs Rajiv Gandhi, ladies and gentlemen: It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Jordan. Queen Nur joins me in expressing our pleasure at having you, Mrs Gandhi, and the accompanying delegation as our dear and most distinguished guests. The government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan share with me the happiness of this auspicious occasion, which permits us once again to express our high esteem and deep affection for the government and people of your great and friendly nation.

We regard your visit as an added indication of the strong relations which exist between our two countries. We are confident that these ties will continue to grow and develop for the welfare of our two people.

Your Excellency, in welcoming you among us, dear friend, we pay tribute to the great Indian heritage that has enriched the civilization of mankind throughout the ages. India's contributions to all fields of human endeavor have benefited all mankind and are recognized the world over. One needs only recall the ideas and efforts of Taghor, the Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and your great, late mother to cite but a few examples to appreciate the enduring values your nation has contributed to man's universal heritage.

Your country is also playing a major positive role in the affairs of our contemporary world. India took the lead in founding the nonaligned philosophy and movement, which plays a significant role in promoting world peace and lessening international tensions. It continues to set an example for other nations to follow in social and economic development based on self-reliance. The Indian union of states stands out as a guiding and successful example in plurality, democracy, and development.

Your nation's role in promoting the prospects of regional peace in southern Asia adds to the multitude of their achievements. We also value highly your stand on global issues of lasting concern to humanity present and future. You are making a magnificent contribution in the issues of disarmament, promotion of peace and stability, termination of military occupation, and the establishment of a more equitable international economic order. In adopting such an honorable position, you have earned the respect of all your many friends throughout the world in general and the Arab world in particular.

Your Excellency, your visit affords me the added pleasure of expressing our appreciation and gratitude for your country's unwavering understanding and support to the Arab just causes. You have constantly stood beside the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights in gaining their freedom and ending the Israeli occupation of their land. Resisting occupation is not only a right but also a national duty. The people of India know full well what occupation is, and they set a shining example for all peoples under occupation by demonstrating how liberty, freedom, and independence can be attained.

The current popular revolt sweeping the occupied territories deserves and merits the support of all believers in human dignity and freedom. We are grateful for India's efforts to help promote the prospects of solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem in a just and equitable manner.

We value your support for the convening of an international conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and to resolve the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. Such a conference is the only way to achieve a comprehensive, just, honorable, and durable peace. This was confirmed in the Amman summit last November and reconfirmed by the Algiers summit last month.

Your Excellency, I would also like to express our deep appreciation for your support to end the Iraq-Iran war. This destructive war is in its 8th year. It has caused immense human suffering and material damage to the two neighboring states. It threatens the security and stability of the entire region.

Iran's continued refusal to accept Security Council Resolution 598 is not only prolonging this tragedy but is also causing a threat to the other Gulf states, international shipping, as well as the interests of many other states, which are not a party to the conflict.

By contrast, Iraq has accepted that resolution as well as all other international, regional, and nonaligned initiatives to end the war.

Iraq's repeated calls for peace, especially since its recent military successes, testify to its sincerity in seeking an honorable settlement.

We support all efforts to bring the war to an immediate end. We view any progress in settling the Gulf conflict as a contribution to the cause of peace and stability in other regions, particularly in our region.

We are certain that Your Excellency's government will intensify its efforts to prevail on Iran to respect the international will to put an immediate end to this war.

Your Excellency, we know that you as a world statesman and India as a great nation, with a well deserved and recognized international standing, will persevere with your efforts for the cause of peace and stability in our area to enable its peoples to dedicate their efforts and energies for the needed process of social and economic development. We stand ready to extend to you our full cooperation in this worthy endeavor.

We believe that the current international atmosphere is conducive to the settlement of regional conflicts. This is evident in the Geneva accords on Afghanistan. We believe that a similar international effort should be mounted to diffuse the situation in our region.

Your Excellency, within the context of the friendly relations which exist between our two countries and peoples we note with satisfaction the progress of the bilateral relations between India and Jordan. Our cooperation in the economic, commercial, and cultural fields is growing steadily. There are constantly expanding horizons in the fields of technical cooperation. Hundreds of our students are pursuing their higher studies at Indian universities and educational institutions. We look to benefit from your experience in implementing our economic and social developemnt plans. This will

not only be to our mutual benefit but will also reflect our determination and joint commitment to the South-South cooperation as well as an embodiment of the principles and resolutions of the Nonaligned Movement, to which we both belong.

Your Excellency, Queen Nur joins me in expressing our appreciation of the happy memories of our visit to India during October 1986. We recall your many kindnesses to us and the warm reception of your people with gratitude. We hope that your stay with us will enable us to reciprocate some of the hospitality extended to us by the president, the government, and people of India.

Ladies and gentlemen, I call on you to rise and join me in saluting his excellency the prime minister and Mrs Rajiv Gandhi as well as the continued friendship between our two countries and peoples. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Rajiv Gandhi Dinner Speech

JN1207070488 Amman Television Service in English 1936 GMT 11 Jul

[Speech by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at dinner hosted in his honor by King Husayn in Amman on 11 July—recorded]

[Text] Your Majesty King Husayn, Your Majesty Queen Nur, Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen: My wife and I are touched by the warmth and affection with which we have been greeted in this historic and beautiful city of Amman. The city and its people truly live up to its ancient name, Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love.

A young state in an ancient land, Jordan has been enriched by the heritage of many civilizations. It was somewhere here, in the Jordan valley, that human kind first abandoned its nomadic life and settled down to cultivate crops. The Dead Sea scrolls have greatly magnified our knowledge of the early history of the region. The majestic ruins of Petra are a symbol of the rich and diverse past. Jordan has the unique distinction of being a center of pilgrimage for three of the world's great religions, which have deeply influenced the development of Indian civilization.

Jordan straddles the great trade routes that once linked India and Europe. There has been communication and commerce between our lands long before recorded history. Arabs first settled in India when, thousands of years ago, intrepid Arab traders navigated the intervening seas. Interaction between India and the Arab world contributed significantly to human knowledge, particularly through science and literature. It was the advent of colonialism that broke a flourishing social, intellectual, and commercial relationship.

Jordan and India shook off foreign domination after prolonged struggle. Here in Jordan, Your Majesty's great grandfather Sharif Husayn ibn 'Ali led the great Arab revolt of 1916. For his liberation of the Arab lands, a grateful people named him a grand savior.

In India we revere Mahatma Gandhi as the father of our nation. He led our struggle for freedom. He taught us that if we wanted independence to endure we would have to resolutely devote ourselves to the cause of nonviolence and peace, and the eradication of injustice, oppression, and poverty.

We have observed with admiration how under Your Majesty's dynamic and enlightened leadership Jordan is developing rapidly into a modern state. Your people enjoy the fruits of economic progress and scientific advancement.

Over the years our bilateral relations have acquired depth and maturity. Both Jordan and India have ambitious development programs that open up significant prospects for enlarged cooperation. We must work towards tapping the full potential. We have abiding memories of the last visit of Your Majesties to India. It strengthened the bonds of friendship between our two countries.

It is gratifying that we have been able to maintain a continuing dialogue on matters of interest and concern. I greatly value our personal friendship. We have intensified the process of consultation on bilateral, regional, and international issues. Our discussions will consolidate our relations further and enrich our political understanding.

Jordan and India share an active and abiding interest in the Nonaligned Movement. Nonalignment is based on time-tested principles of peaceful coexistence. It has played a pivotal role in exposing the dangers of an international system based on power blocs and doctrines of deterrence. Today, the leaders of these same military alliances are beginning to see the futility of their earlier postures based on concepts which the Nonaligned Movement has long opposed.

We are moving away from the unbridled hostility of the cold war. There is at last acceptance of the idea of nuclear disarmament. The Nonaligned Movement must note the change in the global political political environment and respond to the new opportunities and emerging challenges. We welcome the INF treaty ratified at Moscow summit last month by General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan. It is an important step on the road to disarmament, but it is only a first step. Much more must be done if nuclear disarmament is to make meaningful progress.

At the third special session of the General Assembly on disarmament we put forward a phased, time-bound action plan for complete nuclear disarmament. We count

on your support for this realistic and feasable program of action. Your Majesty, the situation in West Asia compels attention. The struggle of the brave Palestinian people for their legitimate rights has entered a new and critical phase. Their accumulated anger can no longer be contained. Not all the brutality and violence unleashed by Israel can crush the Palestinian intifada [uprising]. There can be no peace without justice. The illegal occupation of Arab territories must be vacated. The Palestinians have an inalienable right to self-determination. They have a right to their homeland. These rights must be recognized.

India's support for the Palestinian cause is as unstinted as it has been consistent. We believe that the most viable framework for a just, durable, and comprehensive peace settlement is the UN-sponsored international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

We greatly appreciate Your Majesty's tireless efforts towards bringing about a just and durable settlement in west Asia. It is a tribute to Your Majesty's statesmanship that the idea of the international conference received its first unanimous endorsement at the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman last November. The Algiers summit last month further consolidated the gains of Amman. We welcome the unanimous reiteration of Arab moral, political, and economic support for the Palestinian struggle and the attainment of its legitimate objectives. An Arab consensus is indispensable for the Palestinian cause.

The Iraq-Iran war continues to cause untold sufferings. It is taking a heavy toll of the human and material resources of two members of the Nonaligned Movement. The escalation of foreign presences and foreign intervention have further aggravated tension in the region. Recent incidents illustrate the growing dangers. This trend must be reversed. The war must be ended. We support the efforts of the United Nations to bring about an early negotiated settlement.

There has been important developments in our region. The Geneva accords on Afghanistan are the only basis for peace and stability. But they can succeed only if they are scrupulously observed. Unfortunately, the accords are not being respected by all parties. Blatant interference from outside continues. The people of Afghanistan must be left free to determine their future and build a national consensus. We look forward to the emergence of a united, nonaligned Afghanistan, free from foreign interference.

The Indo-Sri Lanka agreement has paved the way for the settlement of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. It has assured the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. It has strengthened security and nonalignment in the region. Elsewhere, however, there are disturbing trends. Terrorism in India continues to be actively supported from across our borders. Terrorists are being incited, trained, and armed. There is a clandestine nuclear weapons program, which is being condoned by those should most actively condemn it.

Your Majesty, we place the highest value on this opportunity to renew our dialogue. I have benefited greatly from our talks. My wife and I have been overwhelmed by your kind and gracious hospitality. We look forward to welcoming Your Majesty and Queen Nur once again in India.

Your Highness, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, may I now ask you to join me in proposing a toast to the health and well-being of His Majesty King Husayn, to Her Majesty Nur al-Husayn, to progress and prosperity of the people of Jordan, to continuing close friendship between Jordan and India. [applause]

Israeli Aircraft Reportedly Shot Down Over South

NC1107212888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2117 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] We have received the following from the editorial desk: According to the latest report from Sidon a short while ago, an Israeli aircraft was shot down in the 'Abra area while it was carrying out, along with a squadron, a mock raid over Sidon and the adjacent camps. The planes, which had fired dozens of flares over Sidon and nearby camps since 2100 this evening, were confronted by intensive antiaircraft fire. This, according to an initial report, led to the shooting down of an aircraft in the 'Abra area. There are no reports on casualties.

In the meantime, we are continuing our contacts with security sources to verify this report.

President Escapes Death in Helicopter Near Miss

NC1207103388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] REUTER cites eywitnesses as saying that President Amin al-Jumayyil escaped death when a helicopter he was flying over Mayfuq village hit a high-tension electric cable. However, the electric power supply had just been cut off because of the rationing system.

Syrian Units Advance on Iqlim al-Kharrub

NC1107171588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The AKHBAR BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY reports that units from the Syrian occupation forces began at midnight last night to withdraw from their positions in Ard Jallud, Shatila, and the Sports Stadium in West Beirut, along with their equipment, weapons, and artillery. They handed the areas over to the dissident followers of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha]. The agency reports that they proceeded to Iqlim al-Kharrub via the Al-Awza'i road, carrying in their trucks what possessions they managed to pick up from homes under their control, and firing into the air in jubilation.

Syrian Deployment in Iqlim al-Kharrub Welcomed

NC1007071088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Excerpts] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has stressed that it is impossible to reach a solution or bring in reforms under a Phalangist regime, which will not change. He noted that the current political situation is vague. In a press statement, Junblatt said: I cannot see any radical change in the Lebanese equation. A new president will come and the Deuxieme Bureau and Army will rule through him. In addition, there are instructions and checks from the U.S. Embassy. Junblatt maintained that there will be no reconcilation, reforms, or justice while the hegemony of the Phalangists and the Al-Jumayyil family continues.

Regarding the talks between Damascus and B'abda, Junblatt said: Nothing concerns me in these talks. What is very important to me is my program, to which I adhere whether there are talks or not.

Junblatt has toured Iqlim al-Kharrum, accompanied by a number of PSP Politbureau and Central Committee members. [passage omitted]

Junblatt stated: There is no disagreement over Syrian entry into the area. We welcome Syrian deployment here if national and pan-Arab interests require it and there are no differences over this issue. He added: I am only surprised by the uproar implying that part of Iqlim al-Kharrub is about to be subjected to sedition. I cannot see any justification for this. [passage omitted]

Syrians Inspect Al-Shuf Roads; Camp Clashes

NC1207063288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpts] According to correspondents reporting from Al-Shuf, Junblatt's militiamen have reestablished the roadblocks which they recently removed from the area. An official in Junblatt's party [PSP] described the move as part of arrangements made by the party's security police.

Meanwhile, AFP cites residents of Al-Shuf as saying that Syrian officers inspected the main roads in Al-Shuf with the aim of setting up checkpoints to secure the travel of Syrian soldiers from Al-Shuf to the South. [passage omitted]

Reports from the South say that fighting took place among Palestinian groups in the Al-Rashidiyah camp a few hours ago. A state of alert followed the clashes.

Pro-Syrian Al-Sa'iqah To Withdraw From Sidon

NC0907170388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Citing Palestinian souces in the South, BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY says that the [pro-Syrian] Al-Sa'iqah Organization held consultations with the Syrian military over the past 2 days and then made a decision to withdraw its 250-man force from Sidon within the next 24 hours. A source close to Al-Sa'iqah said that the decision is due to the current atmosphere in the area following the evacuation of 'Arafat's supporters from the Burj al-Barajinah camp to 'Ayn al-Hulwah.

In another development, four Palestinian organizations—the George Habash-led PFLP, the Nayif Hawatimah-led DFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party—have accused the pro-Syrian Fatah Provisional Command of harrassing the inhabitants of Burj al-Barajinah camp. The groups denounced the use of force in the camp, saying that it caused destruction and loss of life.

Al-Sa'iqah Denies Withdrawal

NC1007110388 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Hasan, official in charge of the Al-Sa'iqah Organization in Beirut, has denied reports indicating that Al-Sa'iqah personnel have been ordered to withdraw from Sidon. He stressed that the Al-Sa'iqah command has issued an outright denial of this report, adding that such reports only serve the enemies of the Palestinian cause.

PNSF Official Warns of 'Arafat Plans for Sidon

NC0907153288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Abu 'Adnan, PFLP-GC Central Committee member and PNSF official, has warned Yasir 'Arafat against causing the security situation in Sidon to explode.

At a press conference held in the Mar Ilyas camp, he said: We have received information that after the removal of 'Arafat's loyalists to Sidon following the loss of their positions in Beirut, 'Arafat will escalate the situation against the PNSF with the aim of imposing his plans.

Abu 'Adnan revealed that he has sent a message to Mustafa Sa'd [leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization in Sidon] in which he said: If 'Arafat thinks of exploiting the situation in Sidon and of exploiting you with some nationalist forces in order to impose his plans, it will then be too late to feel regret, for Sidon is smaller than Tripoli.

He was referring here to the Tripoli battle of 1983, which ended with 'Arafat's departure from the city.

9 February Group Claims Attack on Syrian Post

NC1107182888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for firing a rocket and hurling hand grenades at a Syrian position at the Sports Stadium in West Beirut yesterday evening. A spokesman for the organization noted that the attack caused a number of casualties at the post.

Paqraduni Cited on Internal Situation

PM1107112588 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 6-12 Jul 88 pp 23, 33

[Interview with Karim Paqraduni, deputy chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, by Muwaffaq Madani in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Madani] Frankly speaking, do the [Lebanese] Forces fear the agreement reached between President Amin al-Jumayyil and President Hafiz al-Asad in Algiers?

[Paqraduni] No. This is because the Forces are satisfied with the agreement, since it falls within the framework of a U.S.-Syrian-Lebanese agreement.

[Madani] What does that mean?

[Paqraduni] To us it means two things: A government will be formed to supervise the elections [as published], and the presidential elections will be held on a democratic and Lebanese basis.

[Madani] It is being said that you have been requested to withdraw from "administrative Beirut." This is the essence of the agreement reached between Presidents al-Jumayyil and al-Asad.

[Paqraduni] I do not believe the issue of "administrative Beirut" was the essence of the Lebanese-Syrian talks. [passage omitted]

[Madani] You could be compelled to withdraw from East Beirut by armed force, just as Hizballah was withdrawn from West Beirut.

[Paqraduni] (Answering sharply) No one can move us from East Beirut by force. We are a force above all else. And since we are a popular force and a reality recognized both regionally and internationally, the plan to hit the Forces will fail just as it failed 2 and 1 /2 years ago.

[Madani] Are you not exaggerating your self-confidence at this delicate stage, where you are under the spotlight?

[Paqraduni] No. We make our calculations accurately. Our alliances are planned well. We know well that we mean something to several parties. Our presence falls within a major international framework, that is, the international accord now being maintained. Our presence is a criterion for a proposal that is now acceptable internationally, namely, withdrawing all non-Lebanese armies from Lebanon. And I believe that this will be the genuine plan that will be dealt with at the international conference. [passage omitted]

[Madani] Will the Lebanese differ over the new president's characteristics and name, or has the Al-Jumayyil-Al-Asad agreement secured a president acceptable to everyone?

[Paqraduni] Undoubtedly the meeting has facilitated the principle of holding the elections. There is now agreement to hold the elections as constitutionally scheduled, without one party blackmailing the other. As for the presidential candidate, this will be the subject of Lebanese-Syrian negotiations yet to be held. What is even more important than the Lebanese-Syrian negotiations is the need to work for an agreement among the Lebanese themselves, that is, inter-Lebanese negotiations.

I believe that the Lebanese meetings which have been initiated among parliamentary factions prove that the selection of a president for the Republic of Lebanon can be agreed upon within the Chamber of Deputies. There had been apprehension at the regional and international levels that the withdrawals would be obstructed. But, the Algiers meeting has ironed out that problem and the name of a presidential candidate can be agreed internally.

[Madani] Did President al-Jumayyil conclude a deal with the Syrian leadership without the knowledge of the Lebanese Forces?

[Paqraduni] We are not so weak as to fear meetings between President al-Jumayyil and Syrian President al-Asad. Trust between us and President al-Jumayyil has strengthened over the past 3 years. Thus, we can say that the president has not concluded a deal with President al-Asad. The word deal is inappropriate. An agreement was reached taking into consideration Lebanese interests, and those of the Forces in particular.

[Madani] Where do the interests of the Forces fit the agreement reached between President al-Jumayyil and the Syrians?

[Paqraduni] It is in our interest for the Republic to have a president, that is, to hold the presidential elections.

[Madani] Even if he was close to the Syrians or an ally of theirs?

[Paqraduni] I mean an agreed upon president of the Republic. Obviously there will be no Syrian president of the Republic. We are in the process of reaching an agreement, which we will talk about in the future. It may succeed or fail, but we cannot anticipate events. There is an atmosphere of reconciliation, which means a settlement. It also means that we are not worried about the next president, as both the Syrians and ourselves will have a say regarding him. And we believe that even if our say was limited in the beginning, we will have a bigger say later. [passage omitted]

[Madani] What would the response of the Forces be if the Lebanese Army requested you to once again withdraw from Beirut?

[Paqraduni] The Lebanese Army does not make decisions or give orders. It is an executive body under the legitimate authority. It is the Council of Ministers which makes decisions regarding the Army's deployment or security plans. We are in support of any political decision the government makes in connection with a security plan or the Army's deployment. This is one of our conditions. As for the Army, it has no right to act on its own initiative. If we accepted such logic we would be harming the Lebanese Army and transforming it from a legitimate army to a putschist army—something we do not want for the Lebanese Army or for democracy in Lebanon.

[Madani] Is it true that you accused the Army command of attempting to topple you when you recently announced your military alert against it in the eastern area [of Beirut]?

[Paqraduni] It was a modest attempt.

[Madani] A coup attempt?

[Paqraduni] It was a modest attempt. The army commander, Michel 'Awn, undertook undeclared gradual deployment in the eastern area under the pretext of searching for booby-trapped cars. We foiled that operation because the decision was not made by the political authority, that is, the president of the Republic, or even the Army command. It was an action by someone who sought to control the eastern area and the Presidency. Michel 'Awn is trying to appease Syria by hitting the Lebanese Forces! [passage omitted]

[Madani] Was the presence of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz apparent in the background of the Al-Jumayyil-Al-Asad meeting?

[Paqraduni] I consider the meeting between the Lebanese and Syrian presidents one of U.S. policy's circumstantial and limited successes at this stage. Furthermore, both the Syrian-Iraqi meeting and the Al-Asad-'Arafat meeting are among Soviet policy's circumstantial and limited successes. The Americans are making moves for a long-term objective—that is, the international conference—and a short-term objective, namely, the Lebanese presidential elections.

And I believe U.S. efforts are being focused on the latter, namely the presidential elections. Syria's condition had been that "administrative Beirut" or accord be established before the elections, but following the meeting in question Syrian conditions have been eliminated and there has been international and Lebanese agreement that the elections be held with no restrictions or conditions.

[Madani] How will Israel react to the meeting between President al-Jumayyil and the Syrian president?

[Paqraduni] Israel cannot obstruct a Lebanese-U.S. agreement or a U.S.-Syrian agreement. The United States will in its moves always preserve Israeli strategic interests. Thus, Israel cannot, and does not wish to, obstruct the Syrian-Lebanese-U.S. agreement because it is not necessarily against its strategic interests.

[Madani] What are Israel's strategic interests in Lebanon under such an agreement?

[Paqraduni] Making security arrangements to establish a state of truce in the South.

[Madani] You sound optimistic about the future of the situation in Lebanon. Why?

[Paqraduni] My optimism is long-term rather than short-term optimism. In the short term I have to be cautious because I cannot rule out setbacks and surprises. But, in the long-term I believe that the Lebanese file is now on the table of the big powers, attracting world attention. Thus, the Lebanese problem is on the road to a solution.

[Madani] What truth do you attach to Minister Walid Junblatt's recent remarks about the possibility of the outbreak of an Israeli-Syrian war in the region and in Lebanon?

[Paqraduni] I do not expect an Israeli war in Lebanon or an Israeli war against Syria. What Israel could do at present is engage in limited military operations of a security nature in isolation from the Syrian Army in Lebanon and those forces imposing a fate accompli in Lebanon until the presidential elections are held.

[Madani] After their entry into the southern suburb the Syrian forces are now besieging all accesses to the eastern area. They regard the Lebanese Forces as being similar to Hizballah.

[Paqraduni] There are three observations: First, Syria has not settled the situation regarding Iran and Hizballah in Lebanon. In fact it has recognized Hizballah's political and military presence. It has dealt with such a presence, thus proving that the Iranian-Syrian strategic agreement in the region still stands, despite tactical differences at the Lebanese level. Syria is not against Hizballah in Lebanon; and Hizballah is not against Syria. In the southern suburb there is a Syrian-Iranian understanding which has been translated into an understanding between Hizballah and the Syrian Army over the administration of the southern suburb.

Second, the Lebanese Forces are not a Hizballah in the eastern area. This is because Hizballah represents a non-Lebanese regional ideological plan calling for a redrawn map of Lebanon and the Middle East. Whereas the Lebanese Forces represent a Lebanese plan calling for a Lebanese republic; it also calls for our borders and existence to be preserved. Third, today Syria is preoccupied with Hizballah's position as well as the position of its allies, beginning with Nabih Birri—whose position has weakened—and ending with Walid Junblatt. Syria is today in the process of reassessing its calculations. This is in addition to the U.S. factor, which has prompted Syria to open up to Amin al-Jumayyil. [passage omitted]

Elie Hubayqah Men Killed in Shooting Incident

NC0807162288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] A security source reported this afternoon that persons riding in an unidentified car in the Al-Qubayyat area of East Beirut opened fire at another car, a Honda, which was carrying elements of Elie Hubayqah's wing of the Lebanese Forces in it. Those inside the car were killed, and the incident has led to tension in the area.

Birri Favors Reconciliation Prior to Elections

NC1107162288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Back from Damascus, Minister Nabih Birri said today that elections carried out in the familiar way, which impose on the Lebanese people the continuation of the former system, are out of the question. He pointed out that the Syrians are doing their best to reach a harmonious formula, which will ensure that holding the elections coincides with reconciliation. Birri said he had stressed to the Syrians the Amal Movement's firm stand on the elections; that is, that the election of just any person to the Presidency will not change the situation. Rather, he added, reconciliation among the Lebanese is the only way out of the deadlock into which we are moving aimlessly.

Birri announced: We will attempt to stall the elections until reconciliation has been reached or until a person who is not a Maronite is nominated. He explained that elections will not be delayed by military action, but rather by democratic and peaceful means. If we do not reach agreement before the elections take place, he said, this means that we must live through another 6-year term of trickery.

Referring to who is qualified to ensure a reconciliation, Birri said: The Syrians are qualified for this because of their contacts with all parties. He noted that Amal will not be interested in the sect of the president once reconciliation has been achieved.

Amal Movement Reorganizes, Appoints New Officials

NC0907112188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] According to security sources, the Amal Movement leaders have made new organizational arrangements and appointments in the upper echelons of the movement following the expulsion orders issued against a number of officials during the fighting in the southern suburb and southern Lebanon.

The most striking of these is the appointment of Mahmud Abu Hamdan as official in charge of central security, in succession to Mustafa al-Dirani. Captain 'Abbas Nasrallah has been appointed central military official to replace 'Aql Hamiyah, and Ahmad Harb becomes official in charge of organization in Al-Biqa'. 'Akil Haydar

will assume the post of official in charge of information and education in the Amal Movement. Bassam Tulays has been appointed security official and Shaykh Hasan al-Misri information official in Al-Biqa'.

Hizballah Put on Alert in Southern Suburb

NC0807164888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] In the fallout of the camps war, Hizballah has put its fighters in the southern suburb on maximum alert, security sources said. Hizballah is wary of possible military operations against it now that the Syrians are on alert and following accusations that some Hizballah leaders are sympathetic to the mainstream Fatah Movement.

Ba'th Official Opposes 'War of Annihilation'

JN0907103688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Comrade Radi Farahat, deputy secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command in Lebanon, has described the Syrian regime's action against the camps of Palestinian masses in Beirut as a real war of annihilation. In a statement to an INA correspondent in Nicosia, Comrade Farahat said that pan-Arab duty and responsibility require an effective and responsible move to put an end to the continuation of this dangerous conspiratorial scheme, in which the Syrian regime plays a central role against all the Arab nation's central causes.

Comrade Farahat said that the Arab nation is now being threatened by forces of external aggression, as well as those of internal plotting and sabotage. He said the Arab nation has to shoulder its responsibilities toward confronting this danger posed to its pan-Arab security and destiny. He explained that the current appalling massacres of Palestinian civilians, destruction of their camps, and deportations must be confronted with a unified Arab stand to cut off the hand carrying out this conspiracy, after it has been ascertained that the Syrian regime is the major tool of conspiracy against the Arab nation.

He said the Syrian regime is massacring the Palestinians in Lebanon in continuation of the Zionist entity's role against the West Bank and Gaza Strip masses. He said this regime is in a declared alliance with the Iranian enemy, which has been waging an aggressive war against fraternal Iraq for 8 years and declares flagrant hostility to Arabism.

Comrade Radi Farahat called for isolating the Syrian regime on the Arab level, boycotting it politically and economically, and suspending all forms of support to it until it becomes committed to the Arab charters and norms.

Israelis Settling Falasha Jews in Shab'a

NC1107174588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Lawyer Tariq Shihab, who was appointed by the Foreign Ministry to prepare a report on the settlement of Falasha Jews on Shab'a farms, has denied the enemy's claims that the owners of these farms have been allowed to work in and make use of them. He said that the enemy is trying to deceive the world public by giving it incorrect information about these farms without denying that Falasha Jews are being settled there.

Lawyer Shihab emphasized that a barbed-wire fence has been put up around 10 villages and farms that the inhabitants of 4 farms have been prevented from going to their farms, and that settlements have really been established in some of them, especially in Zibdin.

He urged the fraternal Arab states, the Arab League, all friendly states, and the United Nations to adopt fair stands to compel Israel to halt this encroachment and to return these Lebanese villages and farms to their Lebanese owners.

Meanwhile, the Al-'Urqub citizens committee held a news conference at the press association headquarters today at which it asserted that the Israeli segmentation and annexation plan has almost become a reality in the area, and that the first step in this plan was taken in 1967. The committee also announced the following new information: The occupation forces have extended electricity to the settlements that have been established in the Shab'a farms and have paved roads between these settlements and the occupied territories, and Israeli buses arrive at these settlements regularly.

Syrian Source Denies Kurds Seized Village

JN1107144688 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Jul 88 p 3

[Text] Beirut—In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, a high-ranking Syrian military source has categorically denied a REUTER report transmitted on the day before yesterday that an armed group of Kurds have seized a remote village in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley, where they will train for guerrilla warfare against Turkey.

The source said the report is totally untrue. He noted that the Al-Biqa' Valley is under the control of the Syrian Arab forces, which cannot allow the presence of such groups. He emphasized that Syrian-Turkish relations are firm and solid.

Al-Shar' Sees UN Officer, UK Opposition Figure
JN0907170288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Today Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Marrack Goulding, UN assistant secretary general for political affairs, with Diaullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister, and Hani Habib, head of the International Organizations Department, in attendance.

They talked about southern Lebanon and how the United Nations can help implement Security Council Resolution No 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from the area.

In the morning, the foreign minister received Gerald Kaufman, Britain's shadow foreign secretary, who is the official spokesman for the opposition Labor Party. Present at the meeting were Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and 'Adnan Nashshabah, Western Europe desk chief at the Foreign Ministry. They talked about the requirements for a just, overall solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Kaufman noted that his party supports an international conference as the right vehicle for working out a just, comprehensive settlement—a settlement which would provide for Israel's total evacuation of the occupied Arab land and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, including self-determination.

Khaddam Receives UK's Kaufman
JN1007143888 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1220 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus, 10 Jul (SANA)—Today at 1300, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary of the British opposition Labor Party.

The talks dealt with the situation in the Middle East region.

Tunisian Delegation Arrives in Damascus 8 July
JN0807204288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Ahmed Karoui, director of the Tunisian Destourian Democratic Rally, and Taib Sahbani, secretary of state attached to the Foreign Ministry, arrived in Damascus this evening.

There to meet them at Damascus International Airport were Comrade Sa'id Hamadi, member of the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; Nasir Qaddur, state minister for foreign affairs; the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus; and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

In a statement to SANA, Karoui said they were glad to visit sisterly Syria and that the Tunisian president had sent them to convey an oral message to his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad as part of the continuing inter-Arab consultations on Arab developments.

Radio Commentary Views Support for 'Uprising'
JN0907141488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1133 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The occupied territories, particularly Jerusalem, yesterday witnessed an escalation of the popular struggle against the Israeli occupation—a part of the uprising which has been continuing for 7 months.

The strugglers change their tactics of confronting the occupation and their resistance to its forces according to circumstances, the available resoruces, and the objective requirements.

Begging negotiations from Israel's fascist leaders, panting after satisfying Washington's rulers, or making concessions and relinquishing basic principles toward the pan-Arab central issue, the Palestine question, have never been among these means of struggle.

The popular uprising in the occupied territories was a natural reply to occupation, the annexation plans, the means of fascist repression, religious and racial discrimination, the crimes of expulsion and mass punishment, genocide, war crimes, and the disavowal of the Palestinian people's national inalienable rights.

The uprising erupted for the objectives of liberation and not for reactivating the situation, just as the glorious October war of liberation was a war of liberation for the sincere, patriotic, and pan-Arab people and not a war to reactivate the situation.

However, it was for the defeatist, agents, and capitulators as Anwar al-Sadat and his group. For them, it was a war to reactivate the situation with the objective of paving the way for sitting at the green negotiating tables of capitulation.

Today, the supporters of the course of deviation, defeat, and capitulation—the course of Camp David in all its various forms—move to exploit the uprising. They do not want to achieve the objectives of the uprising which are the Arab nation's objectives, and nor to liberate the land to evacuate the occupiers without conditions or restrictions and to secure the Palestinian people's national rights, but to do a deal with the U.S. rulers, and consequently with Israel, on the Palestinian issue.

Dealing with the United States and Israel from a weak unilateral position and offering continuous free concessions mean, in the best case, a surrender of pan-Arab commitments and the Arab summits' resolutions regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian people's rights.

Moreover, this also means an announcement of the desire to negotiate with the enemy on capitulation, just as Al-Sadat did. In other words, this means working in words and deeds to betray the uprising, its masses, and sacrifices.

He who is faithful to the uprising does not adopt it through words and beg negotiations with the enemy through deeds. He who supports the uprising can never observe a truce with the enemy and its protectors and direct his fire against the forces that are standing fast against the enemy—forces that embody the objectives of the uprising in words and deeds.

He who claims to be with the uprising does not set fires in the wrong place or create divisions in a place where efforts should focus on closing ranks and unifying views and actions.

He who betrays the uprising by making concessions to the enemy cannot be with the uprising when heroes fall martyr on the Palestinian soil because they refuse to surrender to the enemy and insist on freedom, independence, and the right of self-determination.

The means to achieve the objectives of the uprising cannot take place through fabricating differences with the forces that are committed to the pan-Arab cause, that reject the direct capitulatory negotiations with the enemy, and that strongly adhere to the liberation of Arab territories and to the Palestinian people's national rights.

Those who support the objectives of the uprising cannot oppose those who adhere to the objectives of the uprising and embody them in their words and deeds. What is important in qualifying as a sincere Palestinian and an Arab committed to the pan-Arab cause is not just putting on a traditional Palestinian headdress.

What is necessary in becoming a sincere Palestinian and an Arab committed to the pan-Arab cause is the rejection of surrender and defeat along with concern about alliance with forces that are actually against imperialism and Zionizm.

AL-BA'TH Cited on 'Arafat's 'Deviant Course'

JN1107070388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 11 Jul 88

[From the press review]

[Text] On 'Arafat's deviant course and the exposure of all his plans, AL-BA'TH says: 'Arafat's right-wing policy of pursuing direct negotiations with the enemy has once again shown everybody the dimensions of the suspect moves embarked on by supporters of the deviant course.

The most recent of these moves were the fabrication of the camps' war in West Beirut and the campaign of slanders and deception against Syria's steadfastness. Their objective is to hide his destructive scheme to liquidate the Palestine question and to peddle the American-Zionist plan to impose hegemony over and control of the Arab homeland.

AL-BA'TH adds: The valiant uprising in occupied Palestine has succeeded, through its important victories against the Zionist enemy, its measures, and practices, in returning the Arab-Zionist conflict to its basis as a conflict on of existence and fate.

Abu Sharif's document and 'Arafat's letter to Shamir and Peres are intended to strike at all the achievements of the uprising and are meant to give the Zionist enemy a new weapon with which to besiege and abort the popular uprising.

Afghanistan

Rebels Reject UN Proposal on Neutral Government

BK1107094088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0918 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 11 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance's interim government has rejected a proposal that an impartial government be placed in Kabul and a ceasefire should come into force from September 1, it was reported here Monday.

Peace can never be restored without the consent of the seven resistance groups, the rebel government chief Mubarak Shah told THE MUSLIM newspaper.

Diego Cordovez, who as U.N. mediator helped negotiate the Geneva accord in April providing for a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, at a press conference here Saturday called for a six-month cooling off period from September 1 under a neutral government.

The neutral government would convene a loya jirgah (tribal grand assembly) on ending the conflict through the traditional tribal way of reaching a consensus, Mr. Cordovez said, who has been mandated by the parties to the Afghan conflict to try to help form a government in Kabul acceptable to all sides.

Before leaving for New York Mr. Cordovez said he had met "people from inside Afghanistan" on Saturday.

Foreign Ministry Reaffirms Policy on Coalition

LD1107174888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Commenting on recent foreign broadcasts concerning the formation of a broadly based coalition government in Afghanistan, an Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman has said these broadcasts contradict the position of the Republic of Afghanistan on this issue.

The spokesman added that the policy of national reconciliation and the notion of a broadly based coalition is one of the Republic of Afghanistan's major (?policies). He added that Afghanistan has made several clear statements to the world regarding its position on these matters. Its stand highlights the fact that, to stop the bloodshed, Afghanistan is ready to begin unconditional negotiations with all opposition forces, field commanders within the country, representatives of refugees—including those in Europe and the United States—prominent social figures inside and outside the country, and the alliance of seven.

The Republic of Afghanistan firmly believes that a reduced level of confrontation, which would create an atmosphere of tranquillity and mutual confidence, is essential if we are to make progress toward the resolution of our differences. Broad, practical steps have been taken to form a coalition government within the framework of national reconciliation. Afghanistan is confident that with the evolution and development of the policy of national reconciliation, a way has been opened for the creation of a broadly based coalition government.

In addition, it is worth noting that the Republic of Afghanistan is ready to enter into negotiations with all political forces concerning a mechanism for the formation of a broadly based government. Such a government would represent all classes, sectors, and political forces, and would promote stability and an end to the bloodshed. The Republic of Afghanistan hopes this humanitarian and realistic proposal, which is a product of our sincerity and honest interest in a settlement, will be seriously considered.

We believe that proposals and ideas that are neither practical nor capable of implementation are no help to the process and do not meet the higher interests of Afghans inside and outside the country. As a result, we should say that the clearest path before us, in terms of logic and existing realities, is that of complete implementation of the Geneva accords and, more importantly, of an end to Pakistani interference in Afghanistan's domestic affairs.

This should be accompanied by the start of a constructive dialogue among the various political forces, which will lead to a gradual matching of their positions. That, in turn, will create conditions conducive to a broadly based government consisting of those interested in peace in our country.

44th Memorandum on Pakistan 'Violations' Released

LD1107234288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry's liaison office with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan reports that the 44th Afghan memorandum on Pakistan's repeated violations of the Geneva accords was submitted to the UN Mission in Kabul this morning.

The memorandum provides accurate and comprehensive information on six blatant Pakistani violations of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords. The delegation was asked to investigate the cases mentioned in the memorandum and to present its findings to the Afghan authorities and the UN secretary general's envoy.

Downing of Iranian Airliner Termed 'Terrorism'

LD1107081888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 11 Jul 88

["Commentary on the U.S. Gulf action"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, July 10, BAKHTAR—The peace-loving humanity who follows with concern the U.S. military presence in the Gulf recently witnessed another horrible

tragedy. This time, the U.S. naval forces in the Gulf fired surface-to-air missiles on the Iranian passenger airliner and downed it along with 298 passengers on board.

So far, any reasons fabricated by the U.S. for justification of its terroristic act committed in contradiction to all international civil aviation norms were groundless and illogical.

The U.S. claim that its Navy in the Gulf could not differ the Iranian huge passenger airliner from a small F-16 [as received] fighter, cannot convince the world public opinion.

The international news media reported that the accident took place in the conditions when the Iranian passenger plane was making a regular flight within the boundaries of an international air corridor intended for civilian flights and the plane had not posed any threat to the U.S. warships in the Gulf. Furthermore, the U.S. Navy did not give any warning to the pilot of the Iranian passenger plane.

Political observers are in conviction that the USA bears the grave responsibility for the genocide of 298 innocent civilian passengers including women and children causing by the military buildup of the U.S. Navy forces in the Gulf—a region situated thousands of km away from the territory of that country.

This act of state terrorism has shocked the conscience of all humanity and evoked a strong world condemnation of the irresponsible act on the part of the White House authorities.

Politburo Views International, Domestic Events

LD1007013288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held today. The Politburo reviewed the activities of the PDPA Central Committee's parliamentary group in the Milli Shura [National Assembly] of the Republic of Afghanistan, and noted the following:

The Milli Shura, with its characteristics of a coalition, has been established as the foundation of democracy in the country's political system. For their part, the delegates in the Wolasi Jirgah [People's Assembly] have held free debates on policies and on the new government's cabinet, giving that government its vote of confidence. All this is seen as the major accomplishment of the national reconciliation policy and a factor for enhancing national sovereignty at the national, regional, and international levels.

The Politburo approved a resolution concerning the activities of the PDPA Central Committee's parliamentary group in the Milli Shura.

The Politburo also heard a report from the delegation that represented the Republic of Afghanistan at the meeting of foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau on disarmament held in Havana. The Politburo approved a resolution containing a positive assessment of its work.

In addition, the Politburo heard a report from the Afghan delegation to the international meeting held in Berlin on zones free of nuclear weapons. The Politburo approved the report and saw the results of talks with GDR leaders and other participants in the gathering as positive.

The Politburo listened to information on the outcome of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference, and pointed out:

The 19th All-Union CPSU Conference was convened at a time of revolutionary transformations covering the Soviet Union as a whole, and at a time when the most crucial issues facing the CPSU and the destiny of socialism must be addressed. The conference took place in the spirit of Leninist traditions, principled responsibility, and a high degree of responsibility toward the people, revolution, and work.

The conference assessed the initial results of restructuring and took steps for the future that will make the process of revolutionary restructuring irreversible and will remove existing obstacles. During the proceedings, M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, delivered a speech that constitutes a very important and creative document from the viewpoint of new ideas and courageous and responsible approaches toward the practical solution of problems. His address involved the collective wisdom of the party and people.

The Politburo made a high assessment of the results of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference, which was seen as an event of historic and international importance and expressed the support of the PDPA for the decisions and resolutions endorsed at the meeting.

The Politburo also considered a number of other important domestic and international issues.

Council of Left-Wing Parties Holds Meeting

LD1007065088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 9 BAKHTAR—A session of Coordinating Council of the Alliance of Left-Wing Democratic Parties of the Republic of Afghanistan was held here today presided over by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC.

The leading members of the PDPA, Revolutionary Organisation of the Working People of Afghanistan, ROWPA, Organisation of the Working People of Afghanistan, OWPA, and members of the working group of coordinating council of the alliance participated in the meeting.

Mahbubullah Koshani, first secretary of the Central Committee of ROWPA was elected as president of the coordinating council for the next four months.

The session approved a 4-month plan of work. The Coordinating Council of Alliance of Left-Wing Democratic Parties supported the decisions of the 19th nationwide conference of the CPSU CC and released a statement in this regard.

The session of the coordinating council of the alliance ended in an atmosphere of understanding.

Praises CPSU Conference

LD1107090488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 11, BAKHTAR—The Alliance of Left-Wing Democratic Parties of the Republic of Afghanistan has released a statement in which it has described the decisions taken by the 19th conference of the CPSU as politically and historically significant.

The 19th conference of the CPSU clearly proved that the CPSU always defends the policy chosen for the growth of democracy and openness of new political thinking.

The conference has once again reiterated the adherence of the USSR and its leadership to the implementation of Geneva agreements and its intention to solve the regional conflicts through political channel.

The alliance wishes success, says the statement, to the CPSU and the Soviet people for the realisation of the decisions of the 19th conference of the CPSU.

India

Gandhi Interviewed on Relations With SFRY

LD1007100688 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0909 GMT 10 Jul 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] New Delhi, 10 July (TANJUG)—Ahead of his official visit to Yugoslavia, from 13 to 15 July, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi gave an interview to the Yugoslav news agency TANJUG. Gandhi will visit Yugoslavia at the invitation of the Yugoslav state Presidency and Yugoslav Premier Branki Mikulich.

Gandhi received TANJUG's Delhi correspondent Bozidar Francuski and in a friendly talk answered a number of questions on bilateral relations, Yugoslav-Indian cooperation in the Nonaligned Movement, the current situation in the movement, international relations, disarmament, and the developing countries' debt crisis.

Here is the integral text of the interview:

Q: The good cooperation between India and Yugoslavia on the international and bilateral levels goes back a long way. How do you see the two nonaligned countries' present political relations and in which fields can economic ties, which have their ups and downs, be expanded and placed on a long-term basis.

A: At the outset I would like to convey my warm greetings to the friendly people of Yugoslavia. Ours is a friendship which is based on a shared commitment to the principles of nonalignment. It is a friendship which owes its strength and resilience to the joint efforts of Jawaharlal Nehru and Josip Broz Tito, two of the founders of the nonaligned movement.

This friendship was nurtured by Indira Gandhi who visited Yugoslavia in June 1983. We were happy to receive your state president, party president and prime minister in India. Similarly our president visited Yugoslavia in 1986 to continue our tradition of high level contacts. I myself planned this trip last year but was compelled to postpone it on account of the drought situation in India.

I believe that there is considerable potential to expand and diversify our economic and commercial ties consistent with the warm political relations between our two countries. The momentum of our trade exchanges has picked up and was around U.S. $200 million last year. The joint committee which met in Delhi in June 1988 explored further prospects for diversifying our economic interaction.

Some frontier areas of collaboration including science and technology, industrial collaboration and co-production are being tapped. agreements in areas like sports, information, science and technology, nuclear energy, maritime transport and avoidance of double taxation are in the offing. Both sides need to work out long-term contracts to impart stability and dynamism to trade.

We already expressed the necessary political will to stimulate trade during Prime Minister Mikulic's visit in 1986. I am hopeful that my talks with your leadership this time would give a concrete shape to our resolve to raise our cooperation to higher levels.

Q: India is making great strides in economic development. It is less burdened by its foreign debt than many other developing countries, despite the increasingly unfavourable circumstances on the world market. What are India's views on South-South cooperation, what are its experiences in that area and, in your view, what is the way out of the debt crisis.

A: We have indeed made very significant progress in our development efforts. Much of this has been achieved through our own efforts and through domestic resources. From the early years of our independence, self-reliant development has been our national goal. This is one of the reasons why we have a less onerous external debt burden than some other developing countries. This choice has, however, required considerable sacrifice on the part of our people. Their burden should not be made heavier simply because we do not face a debt problem of greater magnitude. We, therefore, remain acutely concerned about the prospects of flow of resources to developing countries. The needs of all countries should be met through increased assistance.

The debt problem, and the conditions which give rise to it, are assuming global dimensions. It has also emerged as the major constraint on the development efforts of developing countries. It is imperative to urgently create conditions which will allow developing countries to resume their growth and development paths. Technical adjustments will not suffice. A more comprehensive strategy is required, which must not only reduce repayment burdens but also address the underlying conditions and inequities of the international economic system.

As we have opted for self-reliance in our national development, we also stand for collective self-reliance of the nonaligned and developing countries. This is an essential component of the independent character of the Nonaligned Movement. We are, therefore, firmly committed to promoting greater economic cooperation among the nonaligned and developing countries. Progress in this area has lagged behind expectations. This is largely due to historical links and conditions which were inherited. Enhanced cooperation among ourselves requires changing traditional attitudes and ways of thinking.

We are, however, making useful and steady progress. A very important agreement on GSTP to promote trade among developing countries was signed in Belgrade in April this year. This is a good development. India's commitment to South-South cooperation is also concretely reflected in our expanding Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme for cooperation with developing countries.

Under this programme, we have provided experts and training facilities to more than sixty developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. We have also supplied equipment and carried out turn-key projects with our partners. In our own region, programmes under SAARC are developing well and have provided a new dimension to our co-operative efforts.

Q. In the Nonaligned Movement India has given a major contribution to changes on the political map of the world. What are your views on the present situation in the movement, especially in regard to some claims that, owing to certain differences and conflicts between its members, the movement is no longer as strong as it was during the time of its founders.

A: A movement which comprises more than a hundred members with diverse political and socio-economic systems, cultures and historical experiences, is bound to have some differences and diversity of views. We do not believe that such differences weaken the movement. On the contrary, they testify to the fact that our movement is dynamic, vibrant and democratic. It does not impose a uniformity of views but seeks to evolve a consensus independently and freely arrived at. The movement is much the stronger because of this approach.

Over the years, the growth in its membership clearly indicates the great significance countries attach to the movement. In fact, over the years, even those countries which in the past have had doubts and unfounded misgivings now recognise it as a positive and constructive force in world affairs. In view of the increasing complexities of our times, while reaffirming the principles on which it was founded, there is indeed room for increasing effectiveness of the movement even further and for streamlining its organisational procedures. Several important ideas have been put forward including those from Yugoslavia. We would have an opportunity to exchange views on some of these ideas during my visit.

Q: How do you see the present international political situation and the latest attempts by the big powers to curb the arms race.

A: There has been a perceptible improvement of climate. The INF treaty marks a departure from nuclear arms limitation to nuclear disarmament. This agreement vividly demonstrates that given necessary political will, technical problems such as verification, can be overcome. the statesmanship of U.S. and Soviet leaderships has been amply in evidence. However, they must live up to the new hopes and expectations.

The arms race, in particular the nuclear arms race, will be ended only when the doctrine of deterrence and the balance of terror that goes with it, are given up. Only then shall the great powers be able to work towards a nuclear weapons-free and non-violent world. To further this objective, we have just submitted, at the special session on disarmament—III, a time-bound action plan for the elimination of all nuclear weapons in 3 stages over the next 22 years. Not only the U.S. and the Soviet Union, but the remaining nuclear weapon states and all other countries must contribute to the process of disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Only then will the international political situation be really transformed.

Q. How do you assess the reactions concerning the disarmament proposal which you presented to the UN General Assembly on June 9. What are the real possibiliies for implementation of this proposal.

A: I think that there is a universal acceptance today of the dangers posed to the very existence of humankind by the spectre of a nuclear conflict. We have seen that the USA and the Soviet Union have, for the first time, signed and ratified a treaty (the INF treaty) which provides for the actual reduction of nuclear power weapons. We regard this as a positive development and hope it would lead to steps for further reduction of nuclear weapons.

The action plan which I presented to the UN special session on disarmament is wide-ranging and calls for total elimination of the nuclear weaons by the end of first decade of the next century. I think it is important that we should have a time-bound programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons. A number of countries and groups who are campaigning for nuclear disarmament have expressed an interest in and welcomed the plan. I think it is important that we as the largest peace movement can play an important role in working for the establishment of a non-violent and nuclear weapons free world order. I look forward to discussing this with Yugoslavia leaders during my forthcoming visit.

Q. India's political scene is always a dynamic one. What are the priorities of your government in the coming period.

A: India has faced a number of challenges both internal and external in recent years. We have succeeded in overcoming these challenges primarily because of the strength and resilience of our democratic institutions and the commitment of our government and people to the principles of democracy, secularism and socialism. I am confident that as in the past we wil be able to surmount the challenges we face today and take our country along the path of prosperity and progress. We still attach the highest priority to the efforts we are making for improving the living standards of our people, particularly the poorer and weaker sections of society while striving to promote international peace, harmony and cooperation.

Gandhi Departs for Jordan, SFRY, Spain, Turkey

BK1107034988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, left New Delhi this morning for Jordan on the first leg of his 4-nation tour. He was seen off at the airport by his cabinet colleagues, the lieutenant governor and mayor of Delhi, MP's [Members of Parliament], and members of the diplomatic corps and other dignitaries.

In response to a question by newsmen regarding unity efforts among moderates in Punjab, Mr Gandhi said the government welcomes anybody who can stand up and is willing to speak against terrorism. He hoped the coming together of the moderates indicates that they have the guts to fight terrorism.

In reply to another question, Mr Gandhi said he would have wide-ranging talks with leaders in Jordan, including the Pakistan issue. He said one can never undermine the role of the Nonaligned Movement in finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. India, under the Nonaligned Movement, would continue to play a positive role in solving this vexed question.

In reply to another question regarding tourism, Mr Gandhi said the government attaches great importance to this industry and hoped his visit will further boost it.

Besides Jordan, Mr Rajiv Gandhi will be visiting Yugoslavia, Spain, and Turkey during his 10-day foreign tour.

The All-India Radio correspondent, M.P. Radhakrishnan, reports from Amman that Mr Gandhi's visit to Jordan has added significance, as it is the second key West Asian country he will be visiting in less than 2 months.

From Amman, Mr Gandhi will go to Yugoslavia. His talks with the Yugoslav leaders will center around strengthening unity among the nonaligned nations and the ways and means to consolidate economic relations between India and Yugoslavia.

In Spain, the prime minister will hold discussions with his counterpart, Mr Gonzalez. The All-India Radio special correspondent, Radhanath Chaturvedi, says it will be the first ever visit by an Indian prime minister to Spain.

During the last leg of his tour in Turkey, Mr Gandhi will have talks with the premier, Mr Turgut Ozal.

Earlier, in an interview to the Yugoslav news agency TANJUG, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the signing of the INF treaty between the U.S. and the the Soviet Union, providing for the actual reduction of nuclear weapons, is a positive development. He hoped that this would effect a deceleration of the arms race. Mr Gandhi expressed hope that the time-bound plan presented by him at the special UN session on disarmament to eliminate nuclear weapons in the next 22 years would lead to a further reduction.

The prime minister explained India's commitment to south-south cooperation, which is reflected in providing experts for facilities to more than 60 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. On India-Yugoslav relations, Mr Gandhi said there is considerable potential for the expansion of economic ties.

Greets Leaders Enroute

BK1107125988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The prime minister sent messages of greetings and good wishes to the heads of government of Pakistan, Iran, Oman, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia while flying over their territories.

In his message to President Ziaul Haq, Mr Gandhi reiterated India's desire to establish friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

'Terrorists' Gun Down 12 in Separate Incidents

BK1007161188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists have gunned down 12 persons in separate incidents since last night. Four members of a family were killed at a house in village Meethapur in Hoshiarpur District. In Amritsar District, two persons were gunned down at Takhtuchak village and a farmer at village Cheemabad. A bullet-ridden body was found at Tarn Taran.

In Jullundur District, terrorists shot dead a nihang [Sikh temple guard] at Ramgarh village, while another person was shot dead in Faridkot District at village Mahalkalan. In another incident in Ferozepore District, terrorists forced their entry into a house in village Markhai and claimed two lives.

Meanwhile, a highly decomposed body was dug up from the debris of Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religious authority] in the Golden Temple complex today. With this, the total number of bodies recovered so far has gone up to 26.

The security forces have arrested eight terrorists and seven harborers during raids on their hideouts in Faridkot District. Stating this, the state director general of police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, said a large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them. The terrorists were responsible for murders and many robberies.

40 Injured in Cinema Bomb Blast in Assam

BK1107040588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] In Assam, at least 40 people were injured, 5 of them seriously, when some miscreants threw a bomb outside the ticket counter of a cinema hall on Naogong town last night. Police investigations are on.

Meanwhile, north-east frontier railway has either canceled or regulated some more east train services following a 100-hour bundh [strike] called by the All Boro Student Union from this morning. The call for the bundh has been given in support of their demands, including grant of separate homeland for the tribals living in the state.

Prominent Leader of Punjab Commando Group Killed

BK1207080988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, one of the most dreaded terrorists, the self-styled general of the so-called Khalistan Commando Force, General Labh Singh, was killed in an encounter with the security forces in (Urmartanda) area of Hoshiarpur District early this morning. The state director general of police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told newsmen in Chandigarh that General Labh Singh carried an award of 100,000 rupees on his head and was involved in a number of killings.

This included the murders of the IG [inspector general] of state police, MR Katoch; the DIG [deputy inspector general] of police, Mr Athwal; a journalist, Mr Ramesh Chander, of Hind Samachar Group of newspaper; the Amritsar BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr Harbans Lal. He was also involved in the attempt on the life of [adviser to Punjab governor] Mr Ribeiro.

GNLF Suspends Movement Till Accord Concluded

BK1107041388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The acceptance of the hill council proposals by the frontal organizations of the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] at their meeting in Darjeeling yesterday is considered to be a major breakthrough in the 2-year-old crisis in the hill areas. Soon after the meeting of the state committee and the frontal wings, the GNLF president, Mr Subhash Ghisingh, announced total suspension of the GNLF movement till the hill development council accord is concluded. He said the frontal organizations have delegated all powers to him to pursue further dialogue with the central and West Bengal governments, and he will be visiting New Delhi very soon.

Mr Ghisingh said the frontal wings accepted the hill council proposal, following the verbal concessions given by the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, during the tripartite meeting in New Delhi on the 29th of last month. Mr Jyoti Basu said in Calcutta yesterday evening that the GNLF decision is a very good and an important political step. He said that if they came forward with some new suggestions relating to the bill, the state government will look into them sympathetically. It would release most of the nearly 500 GNLF activists, and cases of those against whom there are specific charges will be reviewed.

Meanwhile, the district authorities have replaced two companies of Central Reserve Police Force by BSF [Border Security Force] jawans [soldiers] in the hill areas.

Year-Long 'Festival of India' in Moscow Closes

BK0907043288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] The curtain came down yesterday on the year-long Festival of India in the USSR. The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, now on a visit to the Soviet Union, declared the festival closed at a glittering function at the Olympic Stadium in Moscow. The AIR special correspondent, Neelam Kataria, reports that the grand finale was marked by a pageant of dance and music performed by Indian and Soviet artistes. Playback singer Asha Bhosle sang a Russian song, while the Soviet pop artiste, (Valeriy Leonteyev), rendered a song about India. Artistes from both the countries presented a dance depicting the merging of waters of the Ganga and the Volga.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Venkataraman recalled the age-old friendly ties between India and the Soviet Union. He said even before the Christian era, people of the two countries had forged vital links exchanging products of their hands and their minds.

The Soviet president, Mr Gromyko, in his speech said the festivals have brought the people of the two countries closer. He hoped the Indo-Soviet friendship will continue to grow so that the objectives of the Delhi declaration signed by Mr Gorbachev and Mr Gandhi are achieved.

The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, leaves for Leningrad today.

Spokesman on Fijian New Internal Security Decree

BK0707130388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] India has demanded that the Internal Security Decree by Fiji should be rescinded, the political detainees released and civil liberties and democratic rights of all Fijians fully restored.

In a statement in New Delhi today, an official spokesman said India deeply regrets the promulgation of the decree which gives extraordinary powers to the minister for internal security and provides for very harsh, indeed draconian measures.

He said while the ostensible reasons for the decree is the seizure of illegal arms in Fiji, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the real motivation is political and that its provisions are likely to be used against the people of Indian origin as already evident from the individuals taken into preventive detention.

Iran

Commentary Views U.S. Compensation Offer

LD1207130588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1113 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] On the eve of the UN Security Council session on the heartrending tragedy of the downing of the Iranian passenger airliner by the U.S. fleet, the Washington administration stated yesterday that it would pay compensation to the families of the victims on the Iranian airbus tragedy. At the same time, however, it announced that its fleet will remain in the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. announcement of payment of compensation to the families of the victims on the Iranian passenger plane on the eve of the UN Security Council session is being viewed as an attempt to alleviate international pressure and influence the Security Council decision. However, there is a strong possibility that the United States will veto the resolution condemning the United States, which Iran has asked the Security Council to issue.

Meanwhile, according to the U.S. Administration, compensation will be paid to the families of the victims of the Iran Airbus tragedy on condition that they release the United States from any legal liability. The United States is using self-defense as an excuse for sacrificing about 300 innocent people by its bullying and tension-creating in the Persian Gulf. Reagan is satisfied with the U.S. Persian Gulf policy and stresses that the "USS Vincennes" action was justifiable. He is satisfied with and justifies a policy which led to an increase in tension and disturbance. [passage omitted]

The increasing threat to airlines, which stems from the U.S. presence in the region has led various governments and nations to conclude that there is still the possibility that such an incident will recur. In a letter to the Security Council, the United States claimed it had mistaken the Iranian passenger airliner for an F-14 fighter and shot it down. In other words, there is no guarantee the such a mistake will not happen again. How can the United States justify the shooting down of an Iranian passenger plane with missiles thousands of miles from its frontiers and the killing of 300 innocent men, women, and children?

The repercussions of this crime will spread to other countries, for the regional air and sea lanes are not used solely by Persian Gulf littoral states; they are international air and sea lanes.

The question arises: Can peace ever return to the Persian Gulf if the foreign fleets remain? Will the UN Security Council, the guardian of international peace and security, continue to justify bullying by big powers under the pretext of peace and security, and endorse the United States militarist policies?

Further Reportage, Comment on Airbus Incident

Roundtable Discussion Held

NC0807185388 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1420 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Roundtable discussion with Brigadier General Malekzadegan, Navy commander, and Morteza Sarmadi, Foreign Ministry spokesman, in Tehran moderated by an unidentified correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr Sarmadi, when the United States entered the Persian Gulf, it invited its allies to come to the Persian Gulf to ensure security. What is your view of the United States' ensuring the safety of navigation?

[Sarmadi] [passage omitted] The United States claimed it came to the Persian Gulf to ensure the safety of navigation, and that it could do this and also maintain its neutrality. This was the most obvious reason given by Washington officials in the media. As regards neutrality, since the entry of the United States in the Persian Gulf, we have witnessed the attacks on the oil platforms, the attacks on the Islamic Republic of Iran's vessels and ships, the latest attack on the Iranian passenger plane, and I forgot to mention the U.S. role in providing facilities for the Iraqi attacks on our oil platforms and installations.

All these prove that the United States was an active participant and an adversary with a hostile policy against the Islamic Republic of Iran. These also prove that the neutrality professed by the United States is only words. No tangible vestige of that neutrality remains.

With regard to ensuring the safety of shipping in the Persian Gulf, according to statistics on hand, which cannot be refuted by the Americans, the number of tankers and vessels attacked in the period since the United States' military presence in the Persian Gulf is twice the number attacked in the period before its arrival. This shows that the United States has not been successful in ensuring the safety of shipping.

The attack on the passenger plane proves that the United States, which came to the Persian Gulf to ensure the safety of shipping in the Persian Gulf, not only failed to do so, but it also destroyed the safety of airplane traffic over the Persian Gulf. If we do a survey of the effectiveness of the U.S. role in the Persian Gulf, we will see that the net result was to eliminate the safety of navigation and passenger air traffic there. This can be termed the worst form of policy of a country that considers itself a great power, a superpower.

[Correspondent] Prior to its arrival in the Persian Gulf the United States talked eloquently about this safety of navigation and the need to ensure it. When it recently announced it would send the warship "Vincennes" to the Persian Gulf, it mentioned the warship's extraordinarily modern capabilities. Brigadier Malekzadegan, the missile fired at the passenger plane was from the "Vincennes." Could you explain this in the context of the extraordinarily modern and sophisticated nature of the warship?

[Malekzadegan] [passage omitted] This warship, a missile launching warship in the true sense, is 172 meters long, 17 meters wide, and has a draft of 9 meters. The ship was instructed to defend against land, sea, and underwater attacks with the help of its modern equipment and systems. For example, its radar system consists of five different types of radar. One is a three-dimensional air radar with an operational radius of more than 200 miles, or 400 km. It is three-dimensional in the sense that it can gauge the altitude, direction, and distance of an airplane from the warship. In addition, it can gauge the airplane's velocity and type in a short period of time. And this is only one of its radar systems. [passage omitted]

We have rarely seen a warship equipped with five different radar systems for various specific purposes. The warship also has surface-to-surface Harpoon missiles, with an operational range of more than 100 km and which can be used against surface targets. For air defense and air attacks, it has Standard missiles, known as SN missiles, which have a range of nearly 50 km. This was the kind used against the Iranian Airbus. It is also equipped with strong long-range sonar systems for submarine attacks, with torpedoes, and with very advanced ASROC antisubmarine systems.

In addition, it has advanced telecommunications and electronic warfare systems, all of which are computerized. With its NTDSC system, which is a computer system, it can contact all U.S. units with compatible systems around the world and can transmit photographs appearing on its radar screens to other warships, to the Central Command, and, within seconds, to its center at the Pentagon. It may be said that this warship is in fact the most modern warship in the world. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In view of the specifications of the "Vincennes" you have described and the U.S. allegation that the "Vincennes" made a mistake, I will later ask Brigadier Malekzadegan how it could have made this mistake. Now, however, I want to ask Mr Sarmadi why the United States perpetrated this crime.

[Sarmadi] It may not be possible to give a detailed account of this intentional attack by the United States at the moment. However, facts and figures and information at our disposal prove that the United States has followed a policy of exerting pressure on Iran ever since it entered the Persian Gulf. All its actions during this period have been geared to this policy: the attacks on us, the difficulties for our aircraft, and the facilities it provided to Iraq.

In view of the present circumstances, which show coordination between Iraq and the reactionaries of the region and the United States—and we have recently witnessed this on the fronts as well—it appears that the Americans intended to inflict another blow to undermine completely the morale and resistance of the Iranian nation.

If you recall, a day before this incident, one of the U.S. military commanders in the region announced they were seeking a pretext to attack the Iranian missile pads. An assessment of the incident appears to incorporate grounds for such a pretext. The scenario would be: The Americans waylay our forces and shoot at our ships, a helicopter takes off from the U.S. warship, our units would answer their fire, the helicopter would be downed, and at the same moment the Americans would fire their missiles at our airplane. I feel that the Americans were waiting for an immediate military reprisal on the part of Iran.

In this action and reaction, it would have appeared that the area was a war zone, a military zone. Within this context, the incident, that is, an attack on a passenger plane in a military zone, could not be very major. Then they would have the justification that they had been involved in a military skirmish and this had taken place during the skirmish. If you noticed, the first excuse the Americans gave after their repeated denials and their claims of hitting an F-14 was that the area was a military zone and a passenger plane had strayed into this military zone. The experts have explained that this was not a military zone. It is an international flight corridor and more than 100 flights pass through it daily....

[Correspondent, interrupting] Later they themselves admitted that the area was not a military zone.

[Sarmadi] Yes. Therefore, it appears that the Americans committed this crime in the hope that events would happen quickly so that they would be able to cover it up. In my view, the U.S. plan failed because the Islamic Republic of Iran did not react hastily. The fact remains that they intentionally attacked an Iranian passenger plane.

[Correspondent] Brigadier Sir, is it possible that the commander of the "Vincennes" could have made a mistake?

[Malekzadegan] According to my personnel who are well-versed in naval conditions, my answer is no. This warship had a staff of 395, of which 10 percent were experts, each a specialist in his particular field. In light of the systems aboard the warship, the three-dimensional radar, the data present in the computer which prints whether an airplane is an F-14 or F-4, and their detailed information on our types of airplanes, the type of aircraft would have been clearly specified. The ship has radar systems which distinguish the specifications of airplanes. In addition, the F-14 is only 19 meters long, while the Airbus is more than 49 meters long. [passage omitted]

With all this data at his disposal, it would be impossible for a naval expert to make a mistake. With all this information, only if the commander were insane would he fire at that moment and bring about this tragedy.

[Correspondent] Mr Sarmadi, as the Foreign Ministry spokesman, could you comment on Mr Reagan's allegation that the issue of the attack on the Iranian Airbus is closed? What is the Islamic Republic's position on this?

[Sarmadi] Since the U.S. forces' aggression in the Persian Gulf and the active U.S. role in supporting Iraq, we have witnessed that the Americans follow a limited strike policy; that is, they strike blows at the Islamic Republic to the extent they consider them to be assistance to Iraq. Later they announce that it was a minor occurrence which has now ended. Mr Reagan has repeated this many times. In my view, this time Reagan has spoken the truth. The Americans wanted to attack our airplane and kill 290 people and they did so. Thus, Reagan completed his job.

As regards the Islamic Republic of Iran, we reserve the right to respond at the appropriate moment on the principle of self defense, which is the natural right of every country. We do not consider the case closed. On the day of the incident, Reagan announced he considered the actions of the ship's commander correct. He called it an act of self defense, as the commander considered himself threatened and had acted in self defense.

On the basis of the same reasoning—and we do not just think so, we are certain—the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the safety of the Persian Gulf are being threatened. We are absolutely positive that the U.S. actions are opposed to our security, and this gives us the legitimate right to respond to such threats a thousand times over. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Thank you both for your meaningful and firm replies. My last question is addressed to you, Mr Sarmadi. In your view, what has the worldwide reaction to this incident been?

[Sarmadi] In my opinion, the reaction to the report of the downing of the Iranian passenger plane can be seen on three levels. One reaction was among the people, groups, and associations which have no connection with governments. Then there was the media reaction. The media reflect public opinion and official positions, as is their obligation. Third, there was reaction from officials, international personalities, and organizations. Among the people no one was happy over the incident. On the international level, it also generated a wave of anger, hatred, and regret.

You can see to what lengths the American officials are going in order to justify the act to their people. They are trying to say it as a mistake that the plane strayed from the corridor, that we did not have any such intentions.

All this proves that feelings were inflamed all over the world against the perpetrators of this crime. In the media, the reaction was quite extensive and on a high level. It may even be said that the coverage has been massive. There are numerous analyses and commentaries being aired, and the opinions and feelings of people, officials, and the families of victims in Iran and Dubayy are being carried in full detail. It is still the hottest and most important news of the day.

As regards the officials, if we study them in detail, it may be said that all the countries which are politically allied to the United States, whether large or small, are trying to see it as accidental but not something to be justified. [passage omitted]

These efforts of the Americans seem to further affirm that the Americans, or those who are stationed in the Persian Gulf, are a group of paranoid, insane persons who have no control and are easily panicked. They do not seem to know what to do in such a sensitive region, and such persons have been delegated such a difficult task. Even if the Americans seek to support their allegations, the final deduction will stand: They are a group of incompetent persons who have been entrusted with a dangerous and complicated task in the Persian Gulf. They could further endanger human lives, as there are cargo vessels as well as passenger planes there in large numbers.

Facts and figures prove that in the final assessment it was a crime, it was committed intentionally, and it cannot be justified under any circumstances. [passage omitted]

Transport Minister on Black Box

LD1007163088 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—Although it is proven beyond doubt that the U.S. fleet's attack on the Iranian passenger plane was intentional, the search for finding the A-300 Airbus' blackbox is still underway, said Road and Transport Minister Mohammad Seyyed Kya here today.

Talking at today's session of the cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, Seyyed Kya said that some Persian Gulf states were cooperating with Iran in its search for the black box.

He also informed the cabinet of the latest reports concerning search for finding the bodies of the remaining martyrs of the accident. So far, 200-odd bodies have been retrieved from the waters. The U.S. fleet downed the regular 5-day a week Iran Air Flight 655 over the Persian Gulf last week (July 3) martyring all 290 innocent people aboard. The crime aroused the wrath and hatred of people around the world.

Navy Commander on Salvage Work

LD1107102288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Interview with Commodore Malekzadegan, Navy commander, on search operations for victims of the Airbus downing by an unidentified correspondent from the "Armed Forces Program"; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings, dear listeners. In connection with the recent tragic U.S. cruiser's attack on our country's passenger plane, we are talking with Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Navy. About a week has passed since the downing in the Persian Gulf of the Iranian aircraft by the U.S. naval invader force. In Your Excellency's view, as commander of the Navy, what dangers to regional security has the presence of invader foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf created? How do you assess the future of the aggressive U.S. policy in this regard?

[Malekzadegan] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I offer my congratulations and condolences to our strong and steadfast nation and particularly to the families of the martyrs of the unfortunate Airbus tragedy in which over 290 people were martyred. As for your question, it is entirely clear that since the naval fleets arrived in the Persian Gulf and since they increased their presence, insecurity has increased proportionately. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] As the martyr-nurturing ummah have learned from the mass media, Iran's naval personnel have actively participated in the search for the bodies of the victims of the U.S. crime in the Persian Gulf and for the pieces of the aircraft and its black box. Please tell us about measures taken in that regard.

[Malekzadegan] The moment the Navy learned the Airbus crashed, it went into action. It was around 1030 when we realized that the aircraft had crashed and we immediately (?formed) a search (?group) of airborne units and sent them to the area. Then our helicopter carriers and hovercraft went into action, following by patrol units which were in the region. Then additional units such as frigates, troop carriers, and various tugboats were sent to the region. The next step was to gather together all our frogmen from the northern, southern and (?eastern) regions and send them to the area for diving operations.

First to arrive were the naval units. Our hovercraft located many of the dear ones in the water during the first hours and brought them ashore. At the same time, a search operations headquarters was established at the Southern Naval Air Base, and the other units that arrived in the region took orders from that headquarters.

One or two heliopcters from the oil company and tugboats from the shipping and harbors organization and the Contintental Shelf Company joined us. In this way we formed a vast force for conducting search operations.

These operations continued after those first hours, and we located and collected as much wreckage as possible and bodies and transferred them. We gradually extended our search area outward in concentric circles from the crash location out to 8, 9 miles. Also, our diving teams went into action. They recovered many pieces of the aircraft, which were found at a depth of approximately 34 meters. They are now in the process of searching for the black box.

Bearing in mind that the aircraft exploded in midair, and taking into account the state of the pieces which have been found, it is clear that many parts may have shattered as a result of that tremendous explosion. Therefore, it is possible that the black box may have been destroyed, but it is also possible that it will be found.

In any case, the search continues. Although the area is extensive, we hope we will be able to find all of the fuselage and other pieces in good time and hand them over to the investigation team so that they will be able to properly (?analyze) the results for our dear nation. [passage omitted]

Airbus Black Box Recovered

LD1107115388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1129 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Dubayy, July 11 (KUNA)—The black box of the Iranian Airbus A-300 which was downed by the "USS Vincennes" over the Gulf last week has been found by Iran, press reports said Monday quoting marine salvage experts.

English-language daily "KHALEEJ TIMES", published here said that the Iranian jetliner's black box was found about 8 miles from where the plane crashed.

The salvage experts expressed astonishment why the Iranians have kept liptight in regard to the black box, the paper added.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one employee in the company, which provided assistance to the Iranian authorities during salvage operations, said he has information that the black box was found by electronic signals.

Black Box Search 'Underway'

LD1107200988 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Prov., July 11, IRNA—Efforts are underway for finding the bodies of the remaining martyrs and flight recorder (black box) of Iran Air Flight 655 which was missiled-down by a U.S. cruiser at the Strait of Hormuz on July 3.

An Iranian Navy official announcing the above said efforts have been intensified with the help of new devices in an area of over 36 square miles, at the site of crash in the Persian Gulf.

A U.S. cruiser deliberately fired two surface-to-air missiles at an Iranian passenger airliner (Airbus-300), killing 290 passengers on board. So far 200-odd bodies have been retrieved from the waters.

On the Persian Gulf security, the official said as declared Iran is inclined to maintain the security of the Persian Gulf with cooperation of littoral states only. "We enjoy the required experience and ability concerning the issue," he stressed.

Adverting to insecurity in the Persian Gulf created by the U.S., the official said the loud-mouthed Americans had bragged about the arrival of their "advanced cruiser" the "USS Vincennes" to the region, which they said would strengthen their power. But, he added, the unmanly shooting down of a passenger plane by the U.S. proves the fact that Washington's presence in the Persian Gulf is basically tension-creating.

Therefore, he concluded, the region should be left to "the original owners" for bringing security back to the Persian Gulf.

Leaders' Viewpoints Differ

NC1107074388 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 7 Jul 88 p 8

[Hami Alkaner report: "Difference of View in Iran"]

[Text] Tehran (HURRIYET)—The reaction in Tehran against the downing of an Iranian Airbus by a missile from a U.S. warship in the Persian Gulf has brought to light a difference of views among the Iranian leaders, who are exasperated by the war. While outlining the growing demand for vengeance in Iran, President 'Ali Khamene'i said that "the United States has declared war on the Islamic Republic of Iran." Furthermore, Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, who has been designated as Khomeyni's successor, has called for "attacks against U.S. targets."

Meanwhile, it has been observed that Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, recently appointed commander of the Iranian Armed Forces, has assumed a "calling" role among the members of the Tehran administration. Hashemi- Rafsanjani said 2 days ago that the incident, that is, the downing of the Iranian passenger aircraft, was a kind of challenge to international organizations.

Security measures have been stepped up at the Incirlik joint defense installations in Adana, Turkey, as a result of Khomeyni's call for "retaliation" against the United States. Precautions have also been taken to protect the U.S. Consulates in Turkey.

Officials of the Directorate of Police in Adana have said that security has been tightened to protect the joint defense installations and the U.S. Consulate in Adana, several police units have been placed on alert, and teams affiliated with the Turkish Rapid Deployment Force have been assigned to guard the installations and the consulate.

Larijani on Upcoming UN Debate

OW1107022288 Tokyo KYODO in English 0142 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 11 KYODO—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani said on Sunday that Iran is hoping for a diplomatic settlement at the United Nations Security Council of Iran's dispute with the United States over the U.S. shooting down of an Iran Air jetliner.

Larijani reiterated the hope in a press conference here Sunday. The U.N. Security Council will on Tuesday debate the shooting down by a U.S. Navy ship of an Iranian Airbus on July 3 in which 290 people aboard the plane lost their lives. He said the U.S. action infringed on Iran's sovereignty and regional safety and it should be taken up by the U.N. Security Council on the basis of the U.N. Charter.

Larijani also called on the United States to withdraw its military forces from the Persian Gulf, take a neutral stance in the Iran-Iraq war and compensate the victims of the airliner disaster. He said that even if the U.S. exercises its veto in the Security Council, Iran still hopes the U.N. Security Council will do whatever it can to resolve the problem.

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for New York Sunday for the U.N. Security Council meeting.

Archbishop Condemns Downing

LD0807205088 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, Australia, Rev. David Penman, currently here at his own will and with the help of the Australian Embassy in Tehran, described U.S. missile-attack on Iranian passenger plane as "regrettable".

In a talk with IRNA here Thursday, the archbishop considered important and positive alignment of religion with politics in the Islamic Republic.

A U.S. cruiser fired two missiles at an Iranian Airbus-300 on July 3 killing 290 passengers aboard the plane.

The people, especially the youth, in non-religious and industrial countries have gradually distanced themselves from prophets' teachings, he said, adding this great danger threatens future of humanity.

Referring to U.S. missile attack on the Iranian airliner he said all the world's Christian leaders should condemn the U.S. act which, he said, undoubtedly proves American militarymen's meanness.

Archbishop Penman said that his trip to Iran has no political aspect and that he has had no talk with Iranian officials concerning the status of British church envoy taken captive in Lebanon.

U.S. 'Danger' to Civil Aviation

LD0907083588 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 9, IRNA—U.S. military staff are not only badly trained and incompetent but have been continually hazarding civil aviation in the Persian Gulf since its naval build-up last year, say more and more emerging reports.

In the latest revelation subsequent to the U.S. downing of an Iranian Airbus last Sunday, THE LONDON TIMES has found what it called an "explosive mix of failures" that sent the passenger plane to disaster killing all 290 on board.

Reporting from the Persian Gulf Friday, it said there was "substantial evidence" that American naval personnel have "proved to be ill-trained and inefficient, regularly endangering civilian air traffic."

"On one occasion last year a U.S. frigate challenged every civil airliner preparing to land at Dubayy until the British air traffic controller told the warship that it was a danger to civil aviation," the paper said.

Helicopter pilots were also found to have complained to U.S. warships that they were being challenged on the wrong frequency and corresponds to reports that U.S. warnings to the Airbus were sent on UHF as opposed to the known VHF frequency operated by the plane.

The mass deployment of U.S. forces was ostensibly to uphold the freedom of navigation, but has increasingly been seen to be blatantly belligerent, resulting not only in a 50 per cent rise in shipping attacks but imperiling the network of passenger airliners.

Questions have been raised about the wisdom of sending the $1 billion "Vincennes" cruiser that shot down the Airbus in the Persian Gulf and whether or not its reputed world-best missile systems are defective.

Whilst it is maintained that its sophisticated radars may not be suited to conditions in the region, the cruiser has a track record of state-terrorist activities against Libya and had already caused havoc with civilian aviation since its arrival two months ago.

The failure is judged to be more than technological but in the whole bungled strategy and policy of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf, where responsibility for 290 innocent lives must lie ultimately with America's commander-of-chief of armed forces, Ronald Reagan.

Velayati, Libyan Envoy Discuss Airbus Downing

LD1007095188 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Saturday conveyed the gratitude of the people and Government of Iran to the Libyan Government for its sympathetic feelings for Iran in relation with the airbus tragedy at the Strait of Hormuz on July 3.

Speaking at a meeting with Mehdi Ambarshi head of Libya's People's Bureau here, Veleyati said the incident is unprecedented in the contemporary history. The U.S.' act was in violation of Iran's territorial sovereignty, and noted that the Iranian passenger plane was hit while flying through the international air corridor between Bandar-e 'Abbas and Dubayy.

The Libyan official in response stressed on the alignment of the Libyan revolution with Iran's Islamic Revolution as a bulwark against U.S. aggression and against its enmity and said the Airbus catastrophe had disproved U.S. claims of adherence to human rights and its concern about regional security. He said the U.S. hitting of the Iranian passenger plane was a crime committed in the name of security and human rights and calculated to serve the cause of U.S. colonialism and its regional lackeys.

Veleyati flew to New York Sunday for attending a Security Council session of the U.N. to investigate "USS Vincennes" hitting of Iran Air Airbus on Iran's territorial waters on the Strait of Hormuz last Sunday.

IRNA Notes Attack on Greek Cruise Ship

LD1207053088 Tehran IRNA in English 0522 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Athens, July 12, IRNA—Three or four armed men attacked the Greek cruise ship "City of Poros" three miles north of the Aegina Island in the Saronic Gulf Monday evening reportedly killing nine and injuring 78 others. The vice-captain of the cruiser was among the killed. The attackers used hand grenades and automatic weapons. The cruise [words indistinct] passengers. The attackers escaped on another boat and police has launched a manhunt to arrest them.

The other eight people killed were foreigners, but their indentities could not be ascertained immediately. 15 among the 78 injured are in serious condition, Greek press reports said.

The injured passengers have been admitted to hospitals in Athens and the port city of Piraeus. Among the estimated 451 passengers on board the cruiser, there were tourists from France, Sweden, United Kingdom, U.S. and Cyprus.

In a press conference late Monday night the Greek merchant marine minister said the attack took place soon after the vessel had left Aegina around 18.45 local time (15.45 GMT).

The "City of Poros" sails on a one-day cruise to the Saronic Islands from Trokedero in Palio Faliro daily.

On Monday afternoon two Arabs were killed in a car bomb explosion in the Palio Faliro area, and Greek authorities are trying to determine whether or not there was any connection between the two incidents.

Eye witness accounts said panic broke out on the ship after the shooting started and many passengers jumped aboard and were picked up by other Greek ships and tug boats which rushed to the help of the cruiser.

An eye witness, who had filmed the cruiser soon after the attack, told the Greek television that he saw a sail boat sailing away from the ship at a fast speed.

Greek Premier Andreas Papandreou, who is on holiday, is to return to Athens Tuesday for an emergency meeting on the incident and to visit the injured in the hospitals.

Further Details on Attack

LD1207084088 Tehran IRNA in English 0829 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Athens, July 12, IRNA—An attack by three unidentified gunmen Monday evening on a Greek excursion ship in the Aegean Sea has left 11 people dead and over 70 injured, according to latest press reports.

The "City of Poros", a Greek cruiser which makes a daily one-day trip to the islands of the Saronic Gulf, was sailing about 3 miles north of the Aegina Island with about 451 passengers on board, mainly foreign tourists of different nationalities, as three armed men opened fire on the passengers with automatic weapons and hand grenades. No clear incentive for the attack has yet been suggested by observers here.

Some press reports say the three terrorists escaped on another boat, while other reports say they mingled with the panicked passengers on the ship and slipped away unnoticed.

The Greek press have commented that the attack may adversely affect Greece's tourism industry which relies heavily on well-to-do Americans in the holiday seasons.

Three years ago Ronald Reagan advised Americans to exclude Greece from their holiday itineraries after an air hijack from Athens airport.

Premier Andreas [passage indistinct] emergency meeting Tuesday morning in connection with the terrorist attacks.

Meanwhile, police have found no further clue to a car bomb explosion Monday afternoon in an Athens sea side suburb in which two Arabs were reportedly killed.

FRG Official on 'Clandestine' Contacts With U.S.

LD1107092788 Kuwait KUNA in English 0838 GMT 11 July 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 11 (KUNA)—A senior West-German Foreign Ministry official was quoted here today as saying that clandestine Iranian-U.S. contacts were about to yield substantial proposal prior to the U.S. downing of the Iranian civil airliner last week.

In a dispatch from its Bonn bureau, local daily AL-QABAS said the official, who was not identified, has recently arrived from Washington to which he flew soon after the airliner incident.

Despite the plane issue, said the official, the two sides have agreed on the need for continuing bilateral contacts and secret talks. He, however declined to pinpoint mediators involved in the confidential contacts as such closure might block course of talks.

Washington stressed its "neutrality" in the war, support to "each country's sovereignty," "freedom of navigation" and noted it wouldn't maintain a wide-scale military presence in the Gulf, said the official.

The German official believed recent Iraqi victories have forced Tehran to open bridges with Washington to make sure to what extent the Americans were ready to start talks.

The official seemed to have agreed with AL-QABAS' remark that U.S.-Iranian talks would be crowning a post Khomeyni and Reagan era.

Musavi Comments on Iraq's Manpower Shortage

LD1207051288 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today said that big powers' huge military and financial assistance and monetary grants to the Iraqi Ba'thist regime could never make up for Baghdad's acute manpower shortage on the battlefields.

The premier, addressing a group of ulema here Monday, said the U.S. and Israel can continue providing Saddam (Husayn) with arms, missiles and even much-needed hard currency but can never supply (?him) with manpower because they themselves are facing countless problems in the four corners of the world such as occupied Palestine and Lebanon.

Musavi, referring to the desperate efforts of global arrogance and international Zionism to maintain Saddam in power, felt assured "we will soon witness new victories of Iran's Muslim combatants on the war fronts."

Elsewhere in his speech, Prime Minister Musavi hailed Iranian ulema for their key role in the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in the country (1979).

The Islamic Revolution's spiritual values its stress on genuine Islam that religion and politics are not separate and its dexterous blending the power of faith and arms not only awakened all Muslim ulema around the globe but also had a great impact on the minds of Christian clergymen, Musavi concluded.

SDAR President's Envoy on Referendum Conditions

NC1207080688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Mahfoud 'Ali Beiba, special envoy of SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz, has come to Tehran to convey a message from his president to President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. He held an interview in which he said the purpose of his visit to Iran is to report to officials of the Islamic Republic on Polisario Front developments, and to become acquainted with developments in the Islamic Republic.

He added: The Polisario Front's struggle will continue until the entire Saharan territory is liberated from Morocco's usurping occupation. Political efforts to resolve this issue are continuing at the United Nations and the OAU. The SDAR president's envoy said developments in Algerian-Moroccan relations are not related to the Saharan issue, and Algeria has informed the SDAR of its continuing support. Meanwhile, relations between Algeria and Morocco will help to pave the way for a just solution of the Western Saharan issue.

According to Mahfoud 'Ali Beiba, 71 countries have so far officially recognized the SDAR and an increasing number of parties in the world are endorsing the Polisario's position. He stated: As a country partially occupied by the Moroccan Army, the SDAR sees no place for compromise with Morocco. Therefore, the only just solution of the Saharan issue is the withdrawal of the occupiers from the entire Western Saharan territory.

The SDAR official added that as far as Polisario is concerned, the proposal for a referendum on the Western Sahara should be accompanied by certain conditions; namely, the withdrawal of the occupying Moroccan forces, the dismantling of Moroccan administrative and governmental centers, and the establishment of peacekeeping forces in Western Sahara. He declared: These

are entirely just condition. Indeed Morocco itself proposed these very conditions as preliminary steps for resolving Spain's occupation of Sahara in 1966.

Mahfoud 'Ali Beiba did not rule out the possibility of direct talks with Morocco on the Saharan issue. However, he added: The announcement of these conditions does not give much hope to the Polisario Front, and our struggle against the Moroccan forces continues persistently and uninterruptedly.

In conclusion, Mahfoud 'Ali Beiba described the Islamic Republic of Iran as the major mentor and inspiration of the Saharan people. He said the Islamic Republic's media have always provided a great service by reflecting the ideals of the Muslim people of Sahara.

Deputy Minister on Trade With Pakistan

LD0307225888 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Volume of bilateral trade exchanges between Iran and Pakistan stood at about 100 million dollars over the past six months, which is a favorable ground for further expansion of mutual cooperation in the commercial field.

Iranian Deputy Finance Minister 'Ali Akbar Afjehi, announcing the above here today, stressed on continuation of unity and friendly ties between the two Muslim and neighbouring countries.

He made the remarks at the second session for following up a letter of understanding inked earlier between Iran and Pakistan.

In reply, visiting Pakistani Deputy Finance Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan expressed hope that the current talks would result in agreements in the fields of technical and agricultural cooperation, bilateral trade exchanges and mutual team-up for construction of cement and sugar factories.

Reportage on Visit of Madagascar's Premier

Condemns U.S. Attack on Airbus

NC0607062288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Mr Jean Bemananjara, minister of foreign affairs, and Mr George Solofson, minister of foreign trade and oil [title as heard] of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, arrived in Tehran this morning on a visit which aims to expand and consolidate bilateral political and economic ties. They were welcomed upon arrival by Foreign Minister Mr Velayati.

Mr Bemananjara, whose country is a member of the Nonaligned Movement, was interviewed by a correspondent of the Central News Unit. He strongly condemned the savage and hostile U.S. crimes against the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the attack on the Iran Air passenger plane, and said: Weapons used for military objectives should never be used against civilian targets. The recent incident is a direct threat to the regional countries.

On the Nonaligned Movement's position on agressive actions in the Persian Gulf by hegemonistic powers such as the United States, and particularly on the recent downing of the Iranian passenger plane by the U.S. fleet, Mr Bemananjara said: The presence of U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf obstructs solidarity and economic ties between the region and other countries of the world. We, the members of the Nonaligned Movement, should all have a common position regarding the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from the Persian Gulf.

Meets With Velayati

LD0607063588 Tehran IRNA in English 0622 GMT 6 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 6, IRNA—A delegation led by Foreign Minister of Democratic Republic of Madagascar Jean Bemananjara arrived here Wednesday morning and was welcomed by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The delegation which includes minister of commerce Georges Solofson and several economists will confer with Iranian ministers of foreign affairs, commerce, Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, mines and metals and deputy prime minister and head of the Mostazafin Foundation during a two-day stay here. It is also to discuss Tehran-Tananarive economic and commercial ties.

The foreign minister of Madagascar has condemned the U.S. downing of Iran Air Airbus A-300 over the Strait of Hormuz Sunday at which 291 passengers and crew members lost their lives. He said here that the U.S. military forces should get out of the Persian Gulf because their presence is a threat to safe shipping in the waterway.

Bemananjara said that Madagascar will ask the U.N. General Assembly to denounce the U.S. Government for the criminal act. He said his government is opposed to the presence in the Persian Gulf of foreign forces because of its various threats to peace and security in the region.

Received by President Khamene'i

LD0707184388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] The foreign minister of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, who is leading a high-ranking political and economic delegation to Tehran, met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this evening to deliver a written message from the Malagasy president.

At the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati and the Malagasy commerce minister, the Malagasy foreign minister presented the written message from his country's president and conveyed the president's warm and friendly greetings to Mr Khamene'i. He then expressed his desire to expand relations in all fields.

The Malagasy foreign minister expressed the sympathy and condolences of his country's president, government, and people to the Iranian president and people for the tragedy of the shooting down of the Iranian passenger aircraft by the U.S. naval fleet. He described the presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf as a reason for the lack of peace in the region. He condemned the U.S. action in shooting down the Iranian passenger aircraft.

President Khamene'i expressed gratitude for the warm message and expression of sympathy from the Malagasy president. He described the U.S. presence in the important waterways of the world as the cause of tension and danger, and said: The U.S. presence, whether in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, or the Strait of Mozambique, does nothing but create insecurity.

The president added: The killing of nearly 300 innocent people in the recent attack by the U.S. Navy on an Iranian passenger aircraft in the skies over the Persian Gulf is should arouse the world's people to insist that the aggressive U.S. forces leave this region. World public opinion must condemn the tragedy.

At the end of the meeting, the president welcomed the expansion and deepening of cooperation between the two countries.

Confers With Musavi

LD0707190688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] The Malagasy ministers of foreign affairs, oil and foreign commerce today met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. The Malagasy ministers expressed their pleasure at visiting a valiant nation that is fighitng against imperialism and condemned the attack by the U.S. war fleet on the Iranian passenger airliner as the most savage crime of the year, saying; Our nation, too, has bitter memories of the crimes and massacres committed by colonialists.

However, it always kept flying the banner of struggle until independence was achieved. The Malagasy foreign minister praised the steadfast morale of the Iranian people in the imposed war and said: We arrived in Iran the day after the U.S. attack on the airliner. For this reason, we openly declare our support for a government and nation which is a symbol for the struggles of developing countries.

Prime Minister Musavi, referring to the history of the struggle against colonialism, said: Although the superpowers have always tried to have complete domination over Third World countries and to plunder their resources, history shows that any nation which stands up to the colonialists with awareness and steadfastness will eventually enjoy the sweet taste of independence and victory.

The prime minister also stressed the need for direct contacts among developing countries. Describing the roots of wars imposed by world arrogance, he said: Our nation is determined not to give up its struggle in order to safeguard its independence and to achieve its rights. It will never surrender.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0807084488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Mr Jean Bemananjara, minister of foreign affairs, and Mr Georges Solofson, minister of foreign trade and oil [title as heard] of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, who had come to the Islamic Republic of Iran at the invitation of Foreign Minister Mr Velayati, left Tehran this morning after signing a memorandum of understanding. They were seen off by our foreign affairs and commerce ministers.

Before leaving Tehran, the Malagasy foreign minister was interviewed by a correspondent of the Central News Unit. Commenting on his visit to Tehran, he described the visit as the first step in implementing practical relations between the two countries in the political and economic fields. He said: As the countries of the Third World are [words indistinct] international economic problems, they should organize their resources in order to withstand economic pressures. He added: This visit gave us the opportunity to exchange information and thus to pave the way for future cooperation. It was decided that both countries should exchange delegations (?toward this end).

Referring to his meeting with high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: These meetings [words indistinct] as I was received by President Khamene'i and Prime Minister Musavi. He also said that during the visit he discerned the (?interest in both sides) for cooperation.

The same report adds that Foreign Minister Velayati then spoke about the outcome of this visit and said: Relations between Iran and Madagascar began [words indistinct] of the revolution and have expanded within the framework of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy objectives which grant special priority to expanding relations with Third World and African countries.

Mr Velayati added: During this delegation's political talks with officials of the Islamic Republic, the U.S. fleet's aggression against the Islamic Republic's Airbus

was strongly condemned. The sides to the talks also called for the withdrawal of foreign and especially U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf.

On the expansion of economic relations between the two countries, the foreign minister said: The Malagasy delegation held meetings with the ministers of commerce, petroleum, mines and metals, and the iRGC, as well as with the supervisor of the Foundation of the Oppressed. They were also received by the president and the prime minister.

The Central News Unit reports that at the conclusion of this visit, a memorandum of understanding was signed under which bilateral trade will commence and expand in the future. In another part, the memorandum states that in view of common revolutionary positions, the two sides emphasized the need to struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, Zionism, and racism.

The Malagasy side condemned the downing of the Islamic Republic's passenger plane by the United States, and expressed its government's condolences for the victims of this incident.

The two sides also pointed out the need for all foreign forces to withdraw from the Persian Gulf and for all bases in all international waters to be dismantled.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, the two sides expressed their support for the continuing uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories against Zionism.

Meshkini Welcomes Musavi Confidence Vote

LD0207091688 Tehran IRNA in English 0612 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Qom, July 2, IRNA—Leader of Friday mass prayers here Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, Friday paid tribute to Ayatollah Dr Mohammad Hoseyn Beheshti and 72 of his associates who lost their lives in a bomb blast at the headquarters of (the now disbanded) Islamic Republic Party on June 28, 1981. He also called for mobilization of all volunteer forces to participate in the Iraqi-imposed war fronts.

The ayatollah also congratulated the prime minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi for the vote of confidence he received from the Iranian parliament on Thursday.

In other report chief justice, Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi Ardabili currently in East Azarbayjan Province said Friday that the Islamic Revolution of Iran has brought to question the long-standing universal values and has brought new changes in the world. He said the Islamic Revolution has set the pattern for other revolutions.

Ayatollah Musavi Arbabili enumerated the role of the theologians in the course of the islamic revolution and their active presence in all scenes, and called on the ulema to protect the Islamic revolution by all means.

Official Details Drug Seizures, Arrests

LD1207105088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The acting commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee, in an interview granted to our correspondent, discussed the implementation of the plan to combat drug smugglers and said: During the past 21 days since the implementation of this plan, 14,370 addicts and 1,520 smugglers have been arrested, 4 major drug trafficking gangs have been smashed, and 750 kg of morphine, 2.941 kg of opium and hashish, and 20 kg of heroin have been seized. The amount of narcotics discovered during these 21 days is equal to the total amount seized by the committee in the year from 21 March 1986 to 20 March 1987. He added: The new plan will be implemented throughout the country for 6 months.

TEHRAN TIMES on 'New' Anti-U.S. Strategies

NC1107170088 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 7 Jul 88 pp 2, 11

[Editorial: "What of the U.S. 'Self-Defense'?"]

[Text] The rancorous U.S. downing of Iran Air jetliner on Sunday this week has sent a shockwave all through the world. The plane with 290 people on board had flown from the Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas and was en route to Dubayy when it was shot down near the Iranian island of Hengam.

The U.S., vainly trying to whitewash this horrible crime, has essayed to justify the act as an error on the part of the crew aboard the U.S. cruiser "Vincennes." As such, the U.S. has sought to cover up its crime under the awkwardly misnomered title of "self-defense."

Military experts, however, have negated the possibility of such an error. They maintain it is an easy task to distinguish an Airbus A-300 from a warplane by taking into account factors such as speed, altitude route, and other flight particulars.

In the meantime, the U.S. warship that caused the tragedy is ostensibly one of the most technologically advanced U.S. naval fleets. This is particularly so as the warship has the most modern system of electronics and radar. Apparently, the crew aboard this warship are among the most experienced U.S. Navy personnel specializing in such technical matters.

At first, however, the U.S. insisted on downing an Iranian F-14 fighter-bomber. Ever since the news release of the passenger plane's downing and even twelve hours after it the Pentagon and the White House doggedly persisted in having shot down an Iranian warplane.

At the same time, all press services, regional shipping sources, and the airport from which the Airbus took off and in which it was to land, reported the U.S. attack on the plane, all pointing to the downing of the Iranian passenger plane.

The U.S. persistence then is preposterous taking in mind the presence of AWACS and other systems of spying the U.S. has set up to closely observe the slightest aerial moves in the region especially those of Iran.

Viewed from another angle, the U.S. atrocity (prior to its July 4 celebrations) throws ample light on an undeniable reality. It points to Iran's adoption of new political, military, and economic strategies in the way of an all-out struggle against the U.S.

The ignominious U.S. move has affected Iran's foreign policy to such a degree that the future Spiritual Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran Ayatollah Montazeri, in an unprecedented move, has asked the Leader of the Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran Imam Khomeyni for the adoption of practical measures for a full-fledged attack on U.S. interests the world over.

The new U.S. scandal is at once reminiscent of the McFarlane scandal and the Watergate ignominy. Now the Republican Party has kept its man on the seat of presidency at the cost of the blood of innocent human beings!

The error in defense to which Reagan and William Crowe advert might properly be regarded as an error in the regional policies of the U.S. To the dismay of Pentagon think-tanks the wrong targetting of the missile is a symbolic manifestation of the acme of error in U.S. military policies.

Pungently ironic is the salient embodiment of Reagan's long-promised Utopia of security by the charring and mutilation beyond recognition of the bodies of hundreds of innocent children, women, and youths aboard a passenger plane. This is the materialization of Reagan's promise to the Americans and to the people of the world at large!!

Now that the U.S. has blatantly committed such a horrendous massacre, it is up to the committed Moslems to stage an all-out worldwide protest against the murder of innocent passengers of the plane. In so doing, they must set aside all ideological and cultural discrepancies and bring to book the perpetrators of this crime.

The U.S. and its satellites would come to their senses after seeing the answer Moslems will give them. No longer will the U.S. boast of its "security" and "proper defensive" measures in the Persian Gulf when it faces crushing answers from Moslems in Iran and elsewhere. After all the U.S. speaks in and listens to language of force alone.

It is hoped, however, that the U.S. administration realizes the depth of its crime and genuinely regrets it. If so the White House should on the basis of all accepted international rules, openly apologize to Iran, accept paying compensations to bereaved families and take upon itself to punish those responsible for the tragedy. We hope the U.S. government comes to its senses before it is too late.

Commentary on UK-Saudi Arabia Arms Deal

NC1207085888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's research group entitled "UK Arms Sales to the Saudi Regime"]

[Text] The UK and the Saudi regime recently signed an extremely large arms contract, and political observers believe that this agreement will revive the UK's war industries. On the basis of this $16 billion agreement, about 50 Tornado planes, 80 helicopters, 6 minesweepers, and 60 (?Hawk) trainers will be delivered to the Saudi regime. British companies will also build two navy and air bases in Saudi Arabia. Pilots and maintenance personnel will be trained and, in addition, the Saudi regime will be armed with air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles.

In 1986, the Saudi regime signed another agreement with the UK which amounted to $5.5 billion and provided for the supply of 72 Tornados and 30 (?Hawk) trainers.

With the recent large contract, many British companies that faced severe financial crises will be economically revived. Meanwhile, in the first reaction to the $16 billion military agreement between the UK and the Saudi regime, share prices rose in the London stock market. A number of companies that are involved in this agreement can now create new jobs and partially ease the burden of unemployment from the shoulders of the government.

The Saudi regime is to pay for these agreements by supplying oil to the UK. This will, in turn, lead to a reduction in the price of oil on the world market, and Western governments—the main importers of oil—will thus be able to pocket astronomical profits.

Meanwhile, London stock market analysts are confident that other Persian Gulf countries—especially Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar—will follow the Saudis' example and start sending in their requests for arms purchases to the UK. It is also believed that the recent agreement between the Saudi regime and the UK will not be the last of its kind, and that Riyadh is trying to continue its military build-up by concluding new deals.

Until the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, which brought a new movement to the region, modern U.S. arms flooded into Iran as part of the shah's gendarme plan. Arab regimes did not benefit much from

these arms. It was only in 1975 that the Saudi regime was able to obtain 62 F-15's from the United States. However, after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the mask fell from the face of many Arab regimes which had been paying lipservice to the slogan of struggling against Israel.

In a bid to limit and (?threaten) the Islamic Revolution, Western imperialism tried to build a strong wall in Iran's south and west. Immediately after that, the Saudi regime—which is now playing the role of the West's arsenal—deployed U.S. AWACS planes in its bases. A year after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Saudi Arabia signed a $8.5 billion agreement with the United States. Following that, France and the UK assumed new roles in all these deals.

Meanwhile, the fact that Saudi Arabia and other regional regimes such as Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE have turned to Europe can be viewed as a result of the pressures that the Zionists are exerting on Congress in an attempt to prevent the supply of modern military equipment to the Arab countries. The lobby bases its argument on the fact that Israel's security is threatened. However, according to analysts, the Zionist regime is trying [words indistinct] to maintain the balance of strategic arms in the Middle East (?to its advantage).

However, Western imperialism, which considers the Arab markets as appropriate for its [word indistinct] goods in its long-term objectives, is carrying out this program through European governments, which do not face the problem of Congressional approval.

Commenting on Saudi Arabia's large arms purchases, King Fahd said recently: We have the right to purchase arms from any friendly country in the world, and we should be fully ready to defend ourselves. Moreover, King Fahd, the shaykh of Kuwait, and the Qatari amir are trying—through their friends in Europe and the United States—to prove that these arms will not be used to threaten Israel's security in any way.

Therefore, it is clear that in addition to reviving the crisis-stricken industries of the European countries and filling the pockets of the imperialists with the oppressed regional nations' petrodollars, the purchase of these arms is a threat to the Islamic Revolution of Iran. In practice, the revolution and the people who made the revolution will not fear such searches for remedies by the enemies. However, these policies will turn the region into a great powder keg, where the presence of other idiots like Saddam could spark things off in such a way that the brunt would be borne only by the Muslim and oppressed nations.

Foreign Ministry Official on Iraqi POW's

LD1007084488 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—Recent Iraqi propaganda and allegations on mistreatment of Iraqi POW's in Iran aim at diverting world public opinion from Baghdad regime's massacre of Kurds in the northeastern Iraqi city of Halabjah, said Foreign Ministry deputy for international affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani here Saturday.

Following the Halabjah massacre, he added, the Iraqi regime has been resorting to various means among them the issue of Iraqi POW's in Iran to cover up the issue. The Baghdad request from the United Nations to send a delegation to Iran to investigate condition of the Iraqi POW's in Iran is a move in this respect, added Lavasani.

Lavasani said many reports on mistreatment of the Iranian POW's in Iraq are available, such as the incident of Nov. 26, 1982 in Al-Mawsil camps and also keeping the Iranian POW's in secret camps.

Since 1986 the Iraqi regime has allowed the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to register names of only 21 Iranian POW's whereas between 1986 and 1987 the ICRC has registered names of 4,200 Iraqi POW's in Iran, he added.

Lavasani raised mental and physical torture of Iranian POW's in Iraq and said on the contrary the Islamic Republic of Iran has treated Iraqi POW's in accordance with humanitarian and international standards. Furthermore Iran has cooperated with the ICRC in this respect, he added.

More on the humanitarian measures of Iran he said in recent years it has unilaterally released some 695 Iraqi POW's a number of whom in the last minute requested political asylum with Iran.

He said Iraq has not responded to Iran's overtures in that respect. He added 284 Iraqi POW's released by Iran in 1985 had been pulled out of their own homes by the Iraqi Government and conscripted by force at the outset of the war.

Lavasani then referred to Iran's nine-point conditions to the ICRC on release of POW's which includes exchange of POW's who have been captured for more than five years, and exchange of equal number of those who were under 16 at time of their capture.

Iran's condition also calls for bilateral exchange of doctors and medical personnel, exchange of civilians taken hostage by Iraq including the former Iranian oil minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan and exchange of POW's with hard-to-cure ailments in accordance with the Geneva accord, as well as bilateral exchange of those over 60, release of the disabled and wounded, investigating status of Iranian POW's in Iraq with Iran doing the same.

Lavasani concluded by saying that the reason for participation of Iran in the forthcoming Geneva session of the Icrc is to investigate conditions of Iranian and Iraqi

POW's and coordinate efforts to remove problems of the Iranian POW's. He expressed hope that the Red Cross will make Iraq abide by international regulations.

Mobilization Forces Depart for Battlefronts

LD1207112288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Following the invitation from the acting commander-in-chief of the armed forces, who asked for an extensive presence of the people on the battlefronts, a rapid dispatch convoy of the Mohammad, Peace Be Upon Him, Corps, left Arak this evening for the fronts of justice against injustice. These forces came from Arak, Saveh, Khomeyn, Sarband, Tafresh, Ashtian, Mahallat and Deligan.

Large groups of trained forces and volunteers for redispatch also left Qom, Sari, Babol, Savad Kuh, Sakht Sar, Amol, Suldeh, Babolsar, Kord Kuy, Gorgan, Gonbad, and Ramian yesterday and today to assist the fighters of Islam in the country's war zones. Also a group of fresh and trained mobilization forces from Izeh, Bagh Malek, and Iran Shah left for the battlefields of the war against the Zionist enemy to assist the warriors of Islam. According to the report, a large group of construction jihad workers from Rafsanjan, Sirjan, Bam, Bafq, Shahr-e Babak, Zarand and Mashiz also left for the battlefronts.

It is worth mentioning that the military commanders have stressed the need for an even greater presence of trained forces on the battlefronts. In view of these requirements all people who can carry a gun have been asked to present themselves to the dispatch centers all over the country as soon as possible.

WIH Spokesman Denies Shelling Qal'at Dizah

LD1007083688 Tehran IRNA in English 0724 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) today categorically denied Iraqi claim of Iran's shelling of Qal'at Dizah in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province of Iraq on Friday and Saturday. He said that the Iraqi regime systematically publishes such claims to manipulate world public opinion and justify its war crimes.

Referring to Iraq's chemical bombardment of Abadan and Khorramshahr last week, he said Iran will exercise self-restraint but reminded that "Iran's patience is, of course, limited."

Air Force Commander Denies F-5 Shot Down

LD1207080888 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—A senior Air Force commander here Tuesday categorically denied Iraqi claim of having downed an Iranian F-5 bomber in eastern Basra operational region Monday.

The commander described the claim as pure fabrication. He said Iranian pilots carried out 18 successful sorties over enemy positions in Shalamcheh operational region Monday without any of their planes being downed by the enemy. In these operations, said the commander, the Iranian Air Force jets heavily pounded Iraqi positions in the said region and returned safely to bases, he added.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Troops 'Retreat' From Halabjah

LD1207065088 Tehran IRNA in English 0651 GMT 12 Jul 88

["Iranian Troops Retreat From Halabjah"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants have reportedly retreated from the town of Halabjah, in northeastern Iraq to new "defensive positions."

According to reports reaching here from the Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces, the retreat was made to "maintain more secure approaches to continue our sacred defense."

Halabjah was liberated by Iran's Muslim combatants in March this year. Following its liberation and the warm welcome given to Iranian troops by its Kurdish inhabitants, the Iraqi regime ordered an extensive chemical attack on the city which took more than 5,000 lives and maimed another 7,000.

Iraqi Planes Repelled in North

LD1007094388 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azerbayjan Prov., July 10, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes broke the sound barrier over the towns of Bukan and Miandoab in this northwestern province at 10:35 hours (07:05 GMT) today.

The intruding planes also broke the sound barrier over Saqqez and Marivan towns, Kordestan Province, on the same day. In both cases Iranian anti-aircraft fire repelled the enemy planes from the Iranian air space.

Villagers 'Martyred' in Sar Dasht

LD1007105388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the warmongering Iraqi regime has subjected several villages in the vicinity of the town of Sar Dasht to long-range artillery fire since yesterday afternoon. According to the report, as a result of that firing several villagers have been martyred and a large number wounded. Damage has also been inflicted on several houses and agricultural products.

Air Force Bombs Iraqi Forces

LD1007122388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Air Force fighter-bomber pilots flew 13 separate sorties at 0715, (?0720), 0810, (?0820), 1025, 1110, 1115, 1140, 1145, 1150, 1205, 1210, 1220 today. They bombed Iraqi troop concentrations, fortifications, and armored equipment in (Shiller), Shalamcheh, and Al-Faw operational areas. After inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy forces, the pilots all returned safely to base.

Air Force Bombs Shalamcheh Sites

LD1107110388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Air Force pilots today flew 18 separate sorties at 0740, 0810, 0820, 0840, 0910, 0915, 0955, 1000, 1030, 1035, 1100, 1115, 1145, 1150, 1220, 1225, 1255, and 1300. They severely bombarded Iraqi positions in Shalamcheh. A number of Saddamists were killed, and the Zionist enemy suffered significant losses. All the Air Force fighter-bombers returned safely to base after their missions.

Iraqi Plane Overflies Ilam

LD1207095288 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Ilam, July 12, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane violated the Iranian airspace here Tuesday morning and broke the sound barrier over the city. It was shortly repelled by heavy fire of the Iranian air defence.

Communique No 3,260

LD1107200888 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA—Iranian fighter bombers in 18 separate sorties from 07:40 to 13:00 hours local time (04:10-09:30 hrs GMT) Monday heavily pounded Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in Shalamcheh region, southern sector.

The 3260th Joint Staff communique, announcing the above, reported here today that all fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

It said, in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, the Iranian Air Force effectively carried out patrol missions Sunday ignoring two provocative warnings from foreign warships and reconnoitering 53 vessels of various types.

On the battlefronts Muslim forces of Iran have smashed several Iraqi assaults aimed at recapturing key heights in areas between Panjwin and Shiller [name as received], northwestern sector, over the past few days, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on the enemy, it added.

On Sunday, heavy battles were reported between Iran's Muslim forces and Iraqi troops in the afore-said northwestern theater with the latter suffering high casualties.

The communique said Iranian combatants by employing new tactics and choosing pre-determined positions are not only continuing their relentless fight against enemy troops but have also engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat over some regional heights.

Iranian artillery fire suppressed Iraqi patrol operations throughout the fronts yesterday, killing and wounding several enemy patrolmen.

In 'Eyn-e Khowsh, southern sector, several Iraqi tanks were destroyed and the others forced to flee the region by Iranian artillery fire Sunday.

Heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants heavily shelled Iraqi motorized columns in Panjwin, Sumar, Naft-e Shah, Nahr 'Anbar and Yebis yesterday, inflicting considerable losses on the enemy, concluded the communique.

Warplanes Bomb Iraqi Positions

LD1207101288 Tehran IRNA in English 0946 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—Iranian warplanes in five sorties today heavily bombed positions in Zurbatiyah and Qal'at Dizah operational region, said a Joint Staff Headquarters statement Tuesday. All the Iranian planes returned safely to bases after inflicting heavy losses and damage on the enemy.

Communique on Halabjah

LD1207115688 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA—The General Command Headquarters of the Armed Forces said in a statement issued today that Iran's Muslim forces had "deemed it proper" to evacuate the Iraqi town of Halabjah "under the present sensitive circumstances" in order to "maintain more secure approaches to continue their sacred defense."

The statement said to make advances and retreats in the course of war was a natural phenomenon, but it reiterated that Iran's "epoch-making" combatants will not give in until they succeed in vindicating the nation's rightful demands.

Halabjah was captured by Iranian troops in March this year in the course of victorious "Bayt al-Moqaddas-10" operations which forced the Baghdad regime to once again resort to extensive use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish Iraqi inhabitants of the town. The gruesome attack killed 5,000 Iraqi Kurds and maimed another 7,000.

The statement was the second issued by the command headquarters since its formation earlier this month, under the commandship of Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In its first statement issued Thursday, the command urged the Iranian people to rush to the war fronts to defend their homeland against enemy aggressions.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, when announcing the formation of the command headquarters said its goal was to mobilise the country's potentials and available resources towards the war with Iraq in a bid to change the present balance in Iran's favor.

Excerpts of the second statement issued by the General Command Headquarters addressed to the nation, follow:

You (the nation) announced from the very beginning that the end of the imposed war and the establishment of real peace would become possible only through the punishment and suppression of the aggressor.

But leaders of global imperialism who find their strength in violating the rights of other nations... with the aid of (Arab) reaction, employed all their might in support of the aggressor (Iraq).

Following the repeated defeats at the war fronts by the aggressor Iraqi army, Saddam's (Husayn) false slogan of peace, backed by the politico-propaganda ploys of arrogance, was only another conspiracy to force the Islamic Revolution to compromise, but your resistance coupled with the epic your combatants children created, removed the mask of deception from Saddam's face.

The crimes committed by this (Baghdad) regime in bombing and missile-attacking civilian quarters as well as its extensive use of chemical weapons, with the height of this disgraceful act (chemical warfare) witnessed in innocent Halabjah and against the honorable people of the city, proved that crime and aggression is inherent with this regime.

We have always maintained the view that Saddam is not after peace but looking for ways and means to perpetrate new aggressions and crimes. And now bullying powers who more than any other time, feel threatened by the spiritual power of your revolution, have openly sided with the criminal Iraqi regime and are intent to deprive you of your legitimate rights by extending all-out support to it (Baghdad).

Our great nation must be present at the war fronts with a determination more resolute than ever and with added vigilance, and our youth must rush to the battle fronts to counter the enemy's new threats and aggressions and defend the cause of the liberation Islamic Revolution and the pure blood of the martyrs.

We are for justice and will not retreat before force. The enemies of Islam and Saddam's backers must take the idea of compromise by the Islamic Republic of Iran with the ruling regime in Baghdad, to the grave with themselves. As the Imam (Khomeyni) said, "We are standing even if the war takes 20 years..." Now is the time for uprising and devotion and the Islamic Revolution and the homeland is, more than ever, in need of resistance and endeavor.

Nepal

Finance Minister Announces New Budget, Growth

BK1007084888 Hong Kong AFP in English
0826 GMT 10 Jul 88

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, July 9 (AFP)—Nepal's economy is making gains, with a record growth in food production of 17 per cent in fiscal 1987, a Finance Ministry survey has said.

The annual survey released Saturday said food production registered one of the highest growth rates in recent years despite monsoons, droughts in the southwest and floods in the southeastern tropical regions.

Nepal's economy has rebounded after two consecutive years of low real growth to reach 7.1 per cent growth in output in fiscal 1987-88 ending July 15, the survey said.

Finance Minister Bharat Bahadur Pradhan announced his 1988 budget to Parliament Friday, with 81.3 per cent more funds going to agriculture than in the previous year, to total 1.35 billion rupees (57.6 million dollars).

Mr. Pradhan told a post-budget press conference the main objective of the new 19.52-billion-rupee (830.6-million-dollar) budget for fiscal 1988 was economic growth and control of inflation.

Nepal must urgently accelerate economic growth, he said, but then warned that the economy was still vulnerable and needed to proceed cautiously.

He said it was "equally urgent that an environment be created in which the weaker members of Nepalese society can be brought into the mainstream of national development."

The government had failed to lower the inflation rate to a one-digit figure last year, he said. Nepal's inflation rate in fiscal 1987-88 was 11.5 per cent, down from 13.5 per cent in 1986-87.

"We are going to take appropriate measures to control the inflation rate during the next 12 months by implementing new fiscal and monetary policies", Mr. Pradhan said.

The amount of cash crops produced was up 33 per cent over the previous year, while the industrial growth rate rose 10.4 per cent, the Ministry survey said.

Irrigation was allocated a record expenditure of 1.74 billion rupees (74 million dollars), Mr.Pradhan said, adding the government would extend soft credit to encourage the private sector to invest in irrigation projects.

The government has also pledged special subsidies to help with the cost of chemical fertilizers.

Mr. Pradhan proposed Saturday a new five per cent income tax be levied on foreign airlines operating flights to and from Nepal, based on total annual business transactions made in the country beginning July 16.

He said airline companies not operating in Nepal would be subject to a two per cent yearly income tax on their total business transactions there.

The gross national product (GNP) has been estimated to increase 16.5 per cent to 68.1 billion rupees (289.78 million dollars) in fiscal 1987-1988, the Ministry report said.

Agriculture contributed 36.27 billion rupees (54.3 million dollars) to the total GNP, a 18.3 per cent increase. All other sectors contributed 31.874 billion rupees (135.6 million dollars), a 14.5 per cent increase.

In real terms, however, the contribution of agriculture has been rising by about five per cent a year, the Ministry survey said.

The per capita GNP was 3,872 rupees (164.76 dollars) in fiscal 1987, it said.

Of the 6.5 billion rupees (261.7 million dollars) the budget has allocated for regular expenditures, defence spending including Army and police has received 1.35 billion rupees (57.6 million dollars), up 21.9 per cent over last year.

Mr. Pradhan said 13.36 billion rupees (568.8 million dollars) was to be used for development expenditure. He expects a total of 8.8 billion rupees (378 million dollars) in foreign grants and loan assistance towards this.

Observers said the budget relies heavily on foreign aid.

Health spending would rise to 819 million rupees (34.8 million dollars), while expenditures on transport would reach 2.39 billion rupees (101.8 million dollars).

The budget includes a 25 per cent pay rise for civil servants, police, the military, teachers, lecturers and old age pensioners from July 16.

Heroin Smuggling Funded by Gold From Hong Kong

HK0707070988 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 7 Jul 88 p 1

[By Nigel Rosser]

[Text] Gold smuggled from Hong Kong to Nepal is being used to fund international heroin smuggling, a top Nepalese customs official has revealed.

Heroin consignments from the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle are smuggled into India and Nepal before being spirited into Hong Kong, the United States and Europe.

And it is being paid for with gold bought in Hong Kong and carried quite legally through Hong Kong customs, Nepal's Director-General of Customs Dan Bahadur Shahi told the SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST.

"There is a very close relationship between drug and gold smuggling—there is a more attractive profit in smuggling drugs as well as gold," he said.

Last year 359 kilograms of gold worth $60 million were seized in Nepal by customs agents—at least 75 percent of which originated in Hong Kong, he said.

Last month customs in Kathmandu seized 195 kilograms of gold on board a British Army charter flight from Hong Kong. So far eight people in Nepal have been charged.

Acting on tips from Interpol and undercover agents operating in Hong Kong, Nepalese customs made 104 seizures of gold last year.

Lamma Island resident Hamish Mahoney was arrested with 7.9 kilograms of gold in Kathmandu on May 30 and faces four years in a Nepalese jail.

But police in Kathmandu believe up to 30 kilograms of gold a day enters the country undetected.

According to Mr Shahi, gold is smuggled from Hong Kong to Kathmandu—where it makes up to $40,000 a kilogram in profit over Hong Kong prices.

Businessmen linked with what has emerged as a local "Mafia" in Nepal are believed to pay in Hong Kong gold for drugs smuggled into Nepal from Burma's Golden Triangle and Afghanistan's Golden Crescent, police added.

From there the drugs are smuggled to Europe, Hong Kong and the U.S. or into India where gold smuggled into Nepal from Hong Kong is used to pay for the shipments.

From India the drug is sent by sea, plane, or post, to Europe and the U.S. police told the POST.

"The two are definitely linked. No one can purchase drugs with dollars here. Gold is exchanged for the drugs," chief customs officer at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport Mr D. Basnyat said.

But drug trafficking from Nepal has attracted the anger of the U.S. According to a U.S. Embassy official in Kathmandu the powerful Drug Enforcement Agency plans to station an agent in the Nepalese capital next year in a bid to assist the local customs crack down on drug smuggling.

Pakistan

UN's Cordovez Makes Farewell Call on Ziaul Haq

BK1007025488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's representative on the Afghan issue, Diego Cordovez, made a farewell call on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq at the presidency in Islamabad last night. They exchanged views on the implementation of the Geneva accords and on progress on establishing a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

Yaqub Khan Says Saudis Legal Custodian of Shrines

BK0907115588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said Pakistan holds the view that Saudi Arabia is the real and legal custodian of Haramayn Sharifayn [two holiest Muslim shrines in Mecca and Al-Madinah]. Nobody should try to change this position. He was talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport before his departure for Saudi Arabia this morning on a 3-day visit.

The foreign minister said the custody of Haramayn Sharifayn rests historically and traditionally with the Saudi rulers and they have been taking care to provide every facility to the pilgrims. The ICO foreign ministers conference in Jordan also had passed a resolution which clearly stated that the custody of Haramayn Sharifayn would be the responsibility of the Saudi king and a resolution to this effect was approved and endorsed by a large number of countries, including Pakistan. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq had also stated that the custodians of Haramayn Sharifayn are the Saudi rulers.

Earlier, in a written statement before his departure, the foreign minister said Pakistan enjoys warm, cordial, and fraternal relations with Saudi Arabia and his visit is a reaffirmation of these relations.

Senate Offers Prayers for Iran Air Victims

BK0907161588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] The 16th session of the Senate began in Islamabad today. It elected Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak as its leader. The Senate chairman announced a panel of presiding officers for the current session which include Alam Ali Lalika, Syed Abbas Shah, and Sultan Ali Lakhani.

The Senate offered prayers for the soul of a former senator, Akram Dosal. It also offered prayers for those killed in the Iranian plane incident.

While giving his ruling on a point of order moved by Tariq Chaudhary on the status of the caretaker government, the Senate chairman, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, said that interpretation of the Constitution is the prerogative of the courts and the Senate is not an appropriate forum for any such issue.

During question hour, the Senate was informed that a total of 134 papers are published in the country and the government advertisements during 1986-87 cost nearly 90 million rupees.

Sri Lanka

Police Teargas Muslims Protesting U.S. Attack

BK0807133788 Hong Kong AFP in English 1308 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Colombo, July 8 (AFP)—Police fired tear gas here Friday [8 July] to break up a march by more than 1,000 Moslems protesting the U.S. downing of an Iranian passenger plane in which 290 people died.

The demonstrators, shouting "Death to Reagan" and "Down with America," had left Kollupitiya mosque for the nearby U.S. Embassy when police used tear gas to stop the crowd, a senior police officer who was at the scene said.

He said the organisers had not applied for permission to stage the demonstration and protestors ignored police warnings to disperse.

"The crowd was getting very unruly and sometimes even violent. We had to use force to break the march but no one was hurt," the officer said.

Police said that a similar protest was held at Moslem-dominated Puttalam town in northwestern Sri Lanka Friday outside a local mosque.

More than 5,000 people reportedly took part in the protest condemning the shooting down Sunday of the airliner by the cruiser "USS Vincennes" over the Gulf, police said.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed has told his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati that he was "saddened at the loss of innocent lives."

In a carefully worded message Wednesday, Mr. Hameed did not condemn the attack or mention the U.S. involvement in it.

'Terrorist' Violence in South Detailed

BK0807125188 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1145 GMT 8 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 8 (LANKAPUVATH)—Two civilians were shot dead and one injured by unidentified gunmen in Sri Lanka's Ampara and Matara Districts, Wednesday, official sources told LANKAPUVATH today. Dickson Wijesooriya Arachchi, the secretary of the UNP branch of Injiniyagala was shot dead by unidentified persons believed by police to be of the JVP [Janatha Vimukhti Peramuna].

At Bandaraduwa in the Uhana police area, a gang of five, armed with a shot gun, had demanded the gun belonging to U. Punchisingho, when he refused he was shot dead. His son was also injured. The shot gun and property to the value of 10,000 rupees were taken away.

An unidentified gunman shot and wounded Range Lionel alias Paul Lionel, at Devinuwara in the Gandara police area. The injured was admitted to Matara hospital. This is suspected by police to be a JVP act.

Meanwhile, three unidentified gunmen, one armed with a weapon similar to a T-56 rifle, stopped a van transporting newspapers at Magamana, Kegalle, and set it on fire.

Southern 'Terrorists' Kill 2, Injure 4

BK0907132588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1247 GMT 9 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Two men were shot dead and four others wounded by southern terrorists during the last 48 hours.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that three armed terrorists had entered the house of R. Karunadasa at Muruthamiraya in the Hakmana police [station] area, Thursday [7 July] night and shot him dead.

Police said the victim was a United National Party (UNP) candidate in the recent southern provincial council elections.

Police suspect the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) of the killings. The victim had been dragged about 200 yards from his house by three gunmen at about 2030 hours (local time) Thursday and then [they] shot him dead in the presence of his wife and eight children who had cried and pleaded for Karunadasa's life. But the killers ignored their pleas and pumped two shots into the father of eight, while his family looked on helplessly.

M. Mahanama, described by police as a UNP supporter and the owner of a milk bar was shot dead by gunmen, believed to be of the JVP, at Walpola in the Matara police [station] area.

A report from Udamana in the Kamburupitiya police [station] area states that 12 youths armed with knives and believed by police to be of the JVP had stormed the residence of Indramudiwansa, the Grama Sevaka [rural welfare official] at Udadamana and attacked him and three others who were in his garden, wounding all four of them, one of whom was a soldier, Corporal Ariyaratne.

'Terrorists' Run Amok in Small Town, Kill 2

BK1107130488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1155 GMT 11 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 July (LANKAPUVATH)—A gang of 20 terrorists of the Deshapremaya Janatha Viyaparaya which describes itself as the military wing of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) armed with automatic weapons and shot guns, ran amok last night in the small central hill country town of Huluganga, Panwila in Wattegama. They shot dead two men, destroyed a cinema by setting fire to it, robbed the town's liquor shop of Rs. [rupees] 100,000 and a boutique of Rs. 200,000 and set fire to his [as received] house, after blocking the two entrances to the town.

Police told LANKAPUVATH the two killed were M.D. Udawatta, brother of an assistant superintendent of police who was a partner of the Abeya cinema and E.A.A. Basnayake the owner of the boutique that was robbed whose body was cremated by the terrorists after they shot him dead.

Police said the gang of terrorists, described as being youths, had distributed subversive literature before they left.

Groups Urge LTTE To End War Against India

BK1107140588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1241 GMT 11 Jul 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 11 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Two Sri Lankan Tamil rebel groups have urged the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to end its war against Indian forces, states a news agency report from New

Delhi monitored by LANKAPUVATH. Fighting between the Indian military contingent in Sri Lanka and guerrillas of the LTTE has left more than 2,500 dead since October.

In separate statements issued Sunday in the southern city of Madras, the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) blamed the LTTE for the continuing violence in Sri Lanka. The ENDLF asked the LTTE to give up its "unprincipled attitude" and bring an end to what it called its "meaningless fight" against India, which signed an accord with Sri Lanka in July 1987 to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign. It said the LTTE could not accuse the 52,000-strong Indian Peace-Keeping Force of killing Tamils, since its own guerrillas had massacred more than 6,000 rival militants since 1986.

The statement followed an announcement by the LTTE Saturday threatening to end peace talks with New Delhi and prepare for a "long war" if Indian troops continued their offensive.

TELO organiser G.S. Kandha described as "unjustified" the LTTE's campaign and said India "is not our enemy." "Our liberation struggle is not against India," the statement added, urging the LTTE to surrender its weapons in line with the July pact or to bring to an end the "needless battle."

TELO and ENDLF are among six major guerrilla groups, including the LTTE, which accepted the accord, but the LTTE later repudiated it and launched a guerrilla war against Indian troops deployed in the island's north and east.